Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-087 *4 May 1990*

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Cuba

Reaction to Combined U.S. Maneuvers in Region

Havana Reports on Activities

FL0305122990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Report by Rosa Maria Fernandez from Guantanamo; date not given—monitored in progress]

[Text] ...in the Yankee naval base is one of the three military maneuvers that the U.S. Government will simultaneously conduct while practicing its aggression against our country. [video shows aerial view of Guantanamo Naval Base] Information provided by the Revolutionary Armed Forces confirms the movement of troops and military technology in the territory occupied by the Yankee naval base. As part of this exercise, the troops maintained their defense positions, conducted artillery training, and a navy group occupied defense positions. In addition, they conducted airplane and helicopter flight missions. We were also able to confirm that a missile carrier, a destroyer, an oil ship, a warship, a frigate, three Coast Guard ships, three amphibious ships, and a munitions carrier are positioned in the bay.

A simulated evacuation of the base began with the sounding of a siren. Buses that were completely empty practiced the evacuation and instructions were given over the navy base's television station to a group of civilians who were told to walk to the piers.

GRANMA Says Attack Possible

PA0305160890 Havana International Service in Spanish 1403 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Cuban newspaper GRANMA denounced today the three maneuvers in the Caribbean and the increase of the war arsenal at the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base, saying that this proves the possibility that the U.S. Government is preparing an attack on the island. In the article titled Cuban Shield Against Yankee Shield, GRANMA emphasizes that a note from the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry [Minfar] has revealed to our people and the world the maneuvers that Washington prepared in absolute secrecy and has proved their highly dangerous nature.

The Minfar has periodically explained every detail concerning the sophisticated war equipment sent by the United States to the Caribbean under the pretext of conducting military exercises. The article says that the underhanded action recently launched by the Yankees resembles the actions of Hitler's troops in actions against neighboring countries during World War II. However, in this case, GRANMA adds, this will not be a blitzkrieg. Instead, it will have completely adverse consequences for the invader. The Cuban magazine warns that our experienced Armed Forces and people are ready to counter the enemy's bullets and shrapnel.

Communique Submitted to UN

FL0305202590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, our country's ambassador to the United Nations, has met with the president of the Security Council to denounce the U.S. naval maneuvers in areas close to the island. Alarcon told the FRANPRESSE news agency that the possibility of summoning the Council to discuss the subject is not ruled out once it is believed that the situation is turning delicate.

The ambassador submitted at the UN headquarters an official communique of the Cuban Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces which says the deployment of U.S. forces is totally unjustified. The document states that under the current circumstances, when the Warsaw Pact has turned into a dead issue, there is an atmosphere of detente between Washington and Moscow, and the United States can count on a docile government in Panama, the Yankee naval maneuvers have created a dangerous situation.

U.S. Said To Be 'Up to Something'

FL0405132890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 90

[4 May GRANMA "front-page" editorial: "The Shield of Our Skin, Our Morale, and Our Steel"]

[Text] The Yankees are undoubtedly up to something. Some signals resulting from the current maneuvers bear witness to this. As was stressed from the very beginning in the note issued by MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces], it is important to note that on this occasion the U.S. authorities decided to conduct in a simultaneous or successive manner three military exercises that include deployments of several of the largest and most combat-ready U.S. Armed Forces units and all kinds of air and navy assets in areas close to or near Cuba. Obviously, this could be the screen aimed at covering a large-scale military operation against our country, which was already rehearsed last year, to guarantee the initial surprise effect.

A very revealing detail we have learned is the strict secrecy measures in which the deployment of some of the forces involved has taken place. The members of the 82d Airborne Division, for example, which conducted the attacks on Grenada and Panama, were transferred to the mobilization point by railroad and in absolute secrecy. Yankee propaganda, which has always preceded and accompanied these large military maneuvers, is conspicuous by its absence. Thanks to U.S. freedom of the press, in Latin America and the world we are almost completely unaware of the scope, meaning, and danger involved in this unusual war deployment.

Even the loquacious U.S. State Department spokesperson, who is willing to comment on any little silly thing

during her daily briefings, has kept silent this time regarding the serious accusations made by Cuba.

It would seem unusual for the United States to decide to conduct a strategic rehearsal of total nuclear war just now, on the eve of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington, in the midst of a process of detente between the two world powers, and when the Warsaw Pact is in fact history.

It would also seem unusual for the United States to rehearse massive air attacks, troop landings, and evacuation of Guantanamo Navy Base personnel now that the United States already has a trained fatso in the Panamanian presidency and following the electoral setback experienced by the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

There is, however, nothing unusual here. The Yankees are moving against Cuba. Cuba is the enemy. The Bush administration may be reaching the erroneous conclusion that the long-awaited moment to settle accounts with our country has now come.

For what we can see, some groups in the United States live amid imperial ravings that they are the only world power, which does not have to recognize any limits to its foreign policy other than those it wishes to impose on itself.

These ravings could be very dangerous, especially when they are mixed with the opportunism, cynicism, and cowardice that have characterized Washington's behavior toward small countries and progressive and revolutionary movements during the most recent Republican administrations.

Could we really be at the threshold of an aggression this time? Or could this be, on the contrary, another arrogant attempt to intimidate, pressure, destabilize, and force us to waste forces and resources in mobilizing to defend the country? We do not know. There is no way for us to know. They might be willing to go to the ultimate consequences in their aggressive, reactionary, and counterrevolutionary plans this time. We—now and always—must be ready to do whatever is necessary. We have no choice. Our commander in chief has said it in an unmistakable manner: It would always be better to mobilize 100 times when there are threats than be taken by surprise a single time.

A nation that is responsible for the lives of 10.5 million fellow countrymen; a revolution and its leaders who have a responsibility before the country, before the history of the fatherland, before the fate of the cause we are defending, and before a part of the world's future; will never hesitate before the sacrifices that it may be necessary to make.

Thus, in a calm and firm manner and without fears, we are gradually activating our military devices to protect our people's lives and resources. We are closely following each of the enemy's steps. We are adopting and will continue to adopt all the necessary measures during the coming days. If circumstances so demand, we will go to total defense readiness at the right time. There will not be any surprises, and much less will the aggressor encounter impunity despite its refined technology.

No one should be mistaken about the seriousness of our determination. Let everyone know that for each drop of Cuban blood that is shed, there will be a price that no reactionary and imperialist aggressor will ever be able to pay.

If the time for action comes, Cuba will not be alone. The meridian of freedom goes through our country today. At this special moment in world affairs, our fate will be shared by the worthy men, the fighters, and the revolutionaries of the world.

The people who marched in the impressive 1 May parade are either occupying combat positions now or are waiting attentively for the warning signal. No one will play with our people. This inflamed, aware, and prepared people, hundreds of thousands of whose sons have combative experience, will not allow military parades nor the commission of cold-blooded crimes like those committed in Panama.

That is the meaning of the Cuban Shield maneuvers. The Cuban shield is the shield of the people, the revolution, and socialism. That shield, which is covered with our skin, morale, and the steel of our weapons, will defeat the teeth and snouts of the Yankee invaders.

Activities Related to Cuban Shield Maneuvers

Armies Discuss Defense

FL0305114890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] As a result of the situation created by the large maneuvers conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces in the vicinity of our coasts and as part of our defense preparation, special meetings of the expanded military councils of the Eastern, Central, and Western Armies were held in the past few days to discuss the strengthening of their territorial defense systems. Based on the decisions reached by these collective leadership organs, special meetings of the expanded provincial defense councils were held to increase defense training in their respective territories. In addition, the participants stressed the missions and tasks they must fulfill in the Cuban Shield maneuver.

Defense Day Activities Extended

FL0305124990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] As part of the Cuban Shield maneuver, our informed people's response to the imperialist military (?maneuvers), the Havana City Province Defense Council has agreed to move up and extend Defense Day to this Saturday and Sunday [5-6 May]. Defense Day was originally scheduled for 20 May. Both defense periods

will have the notable participation of the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT], production and defense brigades [BDP], the population, and other forces that are now available, as they always are, to defend the capital.

For better organization and the best use of time and resources, those attending the exercise and training on 5 May will not have to attend on Sunday, 6 May.

The provincial defense council, each municipal defense council, and every Havana City defense zone, have been conducting exercises as part of the Cuban Shield maneuver since yesterday. MTT and BDP forces are participating in these exercises.

In accordance with the scope of that maneuver, meetings have been held since Tuesday [1 May] for leaders of the party, government, and chiefs of general staffs to impart the [words indistinct] that will guarantee the success of Cuban Shield.

Nation Prepared for 'Attack'

FL0305181290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] A few hours ago, on the occasion of 1 May, a Cuban journalist interviewed our commander in chief, Fidel Castro. One of her questions was on the bellicose Yankee threats. The smile on the face of the top leader of the Cuban revolution and his calmness in affirming that we will never be surprised, is the synthesis of a people that have learned to grow while defending themselves for more than three decades.

The first day of the Cuban Shield maneuver, a response to the Yankee shield and venture maneuvers, has been conducted with precision by chiefs and general staffs. In addition, combative missions have been identified for different units and structures of the Cuban territorial defense system.

Cuba's people are armed. They have experience, an ideology, a vanguard party, and the courage inherited from our history. Skeptics view Cuba as being alone in the Caribbean and in the new international context. Nevertheless, Cuba is the hardest nut the empire has to crack. The United States' sense of false pride and the complexity of the processes in East Europe have unleashed dreams of war in the White House. The possibility of a direct military attack against Cuba is the greatest aspiration of some Yankee politicians at the highest level. To finish off one of the strongholds of Marxism-Leninism, at a time when statues of the great leader of the world's working class are torn down in acts of blatant treason, is the empire's golden dream. However, the realists in the White House—of which there are few—know that this small, green island; cradle of Marti, Maceo, and Fidel; is a fist of iron.

Calm, confident in the virtue of what we are building based on the best of revolutionary ideas, these heroic people are able to build with rifle in hand. Cubans will never be surprised. Together, in a single unit, with the banners of socialism and Fidel's example, Cuba, if necessary, will rewrite historic epics. The dignity of this people cannot be bought. Our combative workers cannot be intimidated.

As today's GRANMA editorial warns, it is preferable for the Yankees to heed this advice and not attack. If they do so, they should be aware of everything that awaits them. They will experience their most crushing defeat.

The response to Yankee shield is Cuban Shield.

Tanks Said Aimed at Guantanamo

PA0305204490 Paris AFP in Spanish 1854 GMT 3 May 90

[Report by Bertrand Rosenthal]

[Text] Guantanamo, Cuba, 3 May (AFP)—Six heavy T-54 Soviet-made tanks were aimed at U.S. Guantanamo Navy Base while U.S. "marines" were carrying out the so-called "Defex" defense maneuvers, one of the three U.S. maneuvers currently under way in the Caribbean area.

On Wednesday [2 May], the tanks were camouflaged and buried on the eastern sector of the island in the thicket located 4 km north of Guantanamo Navy Base.

In light of the maneuvers, described by Havana as a threat of aggression against the island, the Cuban Government responded with a nationwide civic-military exercise baptized with the name "Cuban Shield."

With soldiers wearing camouflage gear and digging foxholes, armored vehicles hidden in the thicket, and reservists positioning the artillery, this phase of "Cuban Shield" near Guantanamo seemed to be aimed at resisting an air attack.

The Cuban press is reporting that winds of military danger are blowing and the authorities have invited the western press [words indistinct] gets to Guantanamo one observes a paradox: once off the hills that surround Guantanamo, normal life continues.

At the airport [words indistinct], the Cuban city, no special activity is visible. The central command post of [words indistinct] and maintain calm, [words indistinct] of Cuban patrol a few meters from the barbed wire fence that surrounds the 110 sq km of the U.S. base.

Lieutenant Colonel Rene Ramirez, a member of the border brigade, has said: "We must be prepared, but we must remain calm."

Ramirez stressed the coincidence that three U.S. military maneuvers are being held in May.

The three maneuvers are: "Global Shield" ("Escudo Global"), that includes practicing air attacks with the use of B-52 and B-1B strategic bombers, to be held north of

Cuba; "Ocean Venture" ("Aventura Oceanica"), that includes a simulated landing in Puerto Rico; and "Defex," an exercise that includes the evacuation of civilians and the military defense of Guantanamo Base.

According to Ramirez, the three maneuvers could simply be a "rehearsal" of a U.S. attack on Cuba. However, in the United States it is being said that there is nothing extraordinary to these maneuvers.

For the past 30 years, the U.S. military presence on the base that Cuban considers illegal, has been a cause for tension, with its ups and downs, in this part of the island.

In the midafternoon, from the Cuban observation post, we saw a Hercules C-30 being loaded on one of the runways, two coastguard vessles were carrying out maneuvers out in the bay area, and despite the heat, some men were exercising.

Shortly after this, Jose Solar Hernandez, chief of the Cuban Border Brigade, would announce to the press later that afternoon that the U.S. soldiers would begin their "Defex" exercise.

According to the Cuban officers, in the past four months the United States has increased the number of troops at Guantanamo.

They added that now the United States has 12 war ships at the base, instead of the usual six. These vessels include a destroyer, a cruiser, and tank-landing vessels. The Cuban officers added that artillery reinforcements, especially 155-mm cannons, have also arrived at Guantanamo.

On land there are 3,000 "marines" in addition to those who are in the ships. The Cuban officers added that the United States also has in the area TA-4 training planes that can be used in combat and UHIN helicopters

Exercises in Guantanamo Province

FL0305232090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Cuban Shield exercises being conducted in Guantanamo Province should be seen as the reinforcement of the defensive character of the territory in relation to the rest of the economic and social tasks. This was stated by Raul Michel Vargas, chairman of the Defense Council in Guantanamo Province, who added that the maneuvers are based on the irrefutable show of patriotism, loyalty to socialist principles, and people's willingness to defend the revolution to the last consequences.

Late Wednesday [2 May] afternoon, the members of Guantanamo's Defense Council received a detailed briefing by Lieutenant Colonel Pablo Ocana, chief of staff in the territory, regarding the large maneuvers conducted by imperialists in the Caribbean. Cuban Shield maneuvers are taking place in the country as part of our people's preparedness.

'Defense Devices' Activated

FL0305223390 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 3 May 90

[Report by Fernando Delgado]

[Text] Land, sea, and air defense devices have been activated in our country with the Cuban Shield maneuvers, which respond to the threatening air and naval exercises the United States is conducting in areas close to our island. The Cuban Air Force is fulfilling various operational tasks and missions which strengthen the combative preparedness and disposition of our combat pilots to face many enemy attack situations.

All Cuban Air Force units are participating in the Cuban Shield exercise in the air with its powerful combative equipment, from the ultramodern MiG-29 to the humble An-2.

Members of our radio staff toured Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Air Force units and confirmed that all personnel have concrete tasks and missions and high combative and political disposition to fulfill them, in addition to the technical possibilities which have been strengthened during over 31 years of revolution.

The core of our Air Force units is enduring during these days the heat of the MiG-29, MiG-23, and MiG-21 fighters. Pilots and technicians of this type of Armed Forces are supporting Cuban Shield in the air and land.

In these maneuvers the FAR, Territorial Troops Militia units, and Production and Defense Battalions are perfecting our defensive systems in the face of the threats of the imperialist enemy. The acquisition of the MiG-29, combat crafts of greater tactical and operational potential and better weapons which make them as good as the best one in the United States, is now added to the combative experience, heroism, and high disposition of our pilots.

Our tour through Air Force units ended in the sky. The MiG-29's are maneuvering in land. [preceding two sentences as heard] The technicians are fulfilling their important support mission. Cuban Shield in the air is in steady and expert hands.

Eastern Army 'on State of Alert'

FL0405002590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2316 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Cuban Lieutenant Colonel Rene Ramirez, commander of the Cuban Border Brigade located in the territory usurped by the Yankee Navy base, has told foreign reporters that if the United States were to attack Cuba, our country would become a new Vietnam for the United States.

According to foreign news agency reports, the Cuban military man said: They may invade our territory and even occupy part of it, but we will still have to see how they will manage to hold their positions if they try to

occupy them. We are willing to become a wasp's nest they will be unable to escape and which will defeat them, as happened in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the U.S. troops at Guantanamo Base continue to carry out Defex military exercise and to conduct unusual movements of weapons and equipment.

Major Rene Cruz, chief artillery engineer of the Cuban Eastern Army, asserted that activities at the Guantanamo Navy Base have decreased, although a tense atmosphere still prevails. Maj. Cruz added that the Cuban forces continue in a maximum state of alert to confront and defeat the enemy in case of a surprise attack.

Maj. Cruz asserted that the Eastern Army is fully able to repel a surprise air attack or any other form of attack. Cruz added that the Eastern Army is working on the maintenance of an adequate defensive level in view of the threatening U.S. war deployments near Cuba.

The Cuban officer said: The Eastern Army combatants are ready to repel any enemy incursion even beyond the border limits that separate us from our enemies.

Finally, the Cuban officer said: The combative readiness of each of our officers, sergeants, and soldiers is very high. We are ready to firmly respond to an enemy military escalation. We are ready to make our enemies pay very dearly for their attempt to trample on our sovereignty.

Air Force Pilot Major Reynaldo Moran indicated that his division is fully responsible for its mission in case of a surprise attack. Major Moran added that his division has available the necessary armament and equipment to confront the intruder. Maj. Moran stressed that Cuban skies will not be violated without due punishment.

Today, FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] high-ranking officers described the first day of the Cuban Shield defensive military maneuvers as successful. The official report states that the first day of the Cuban Shield maneuvers has served to develop in detail the work conducted by our chiefs and General Staff members in the carrying out of the missions assigned to the various troops and structures of the territorial defensive system.

In addition to FAR members, the Cuban maneuvers include the participation of Territorial Troops Militia, student and workers brigades, and Production and Defense Brigades.

Cuban military chiefs have described the Cuban Shield maneuvers as a whole, in which regular FAR troops, reservists, and men and women organized as militia units are participating. The military chiefs have also stressed the experience of the hundreds of thousands of combatants who have completed internationalist missions in Ethiopia, Angola, and other parts of the world.

Use of Modern MiG-29's Noted

FL0405010690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] We have witnessed today a MiG-29 plane combat training exercise as part of the Cuban Shield maneuvers. [video shows MiG's in the air and on land] This Soviet-made machine can fulfill various missions in defense of the interests of our country. It is capable of fighting against the enemy's most sophisticated aircrafts. Technology is involved in them but, above all, there are men and a consciousness of defending the fatherland if imperialists dare to penetrate our airspace.

[Being recording] [MiG pilot Alfredo Vega] This is a fourth-generation plane. It is at the level of the current times. We do not say that it is a fourth-generation plane for the sake of it, but its technical possibilities and combat capabilities are much better than the ones we have known so far. We can fulfill any mission in any condition, day or night, under simple and difficult meteorological conditions. It is also a very maneuverable plane with great possibilities in short-range combat. It is at the level of any modern plane.

[MiG pilot Alfredo Perez] This plane's technical possibilities are extremely effective. The Soviets showed it in Paris and France [as heard] and the Yankees know what kind of plane this is. They know it.

[Unidentified reporter] What does that sky, that airspace, mean for you?

[Perez] That up above, especially our sky, is the greatest thing in the world. [end recording]

This is one of our air units [video shows planes] that is ready for action. The pilots and the men that guarantee the good condition of the equipment already have experience. They have been in other missions when it has been necessary. Ethiopia and Angola are eloquent examples.

'Combat Readiness' at High Level

FL0405012290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Cuban Shield maneuver is a successful demonstration of the Cuban people's ability to defend the country. This maneuver is one of the most important demonstrations of the level of preparedness, cohesion, and organization of the Cuban men and women who are ready to immediately respond to an enemy aggression.

As has been reported, the Cuban Shield operation includes the carrying out of complex and varied exercises, maneuvers, and training operations, and the participation of large quantities of forces and means throughout the country.

Last-minute reports received at this radio station describe the dexterity and agility with which the members of a large Central Army tank unit have operated

powerful combat equipment during an exercise included in the Cuban Shield maneuvers. During the exercise, the powerful war equipment moved through the irregular topography of the Central Army Firing Range to annihilate a simulated enemy who had just disembarked in the area.

A group of snipers also stood out during these exercises because of their effectiveness and expertise. The high level of combat readiness and preparedness of the Central Army members was clearly demonstrated during these exercises. Along with all the Cuban people who are organized in reserve units, Territorial Troops Militias, and Defense Zone Units, the Central Army members will make anyone trying to invade any piece of our native soil pay veru dearly for its boldness.

MTT Officer on Exercises in Moa

FL0405014890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 3 May 90

[Report by Felix Lobaina from Moa City]

[Text] Good evening. The Independent 845 Battalion of the Moa Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] is also participating in the Cuban Shield maneuver, which is being carried out throughout the country.

We interviewed Lieutenant Roberto Cordovez, who is an MTT battalion commander. Lt. Cordovez stated:

[Begin recording] [Cordovez] Our battalion was chosen to participate in this maneuver. This selection was a great honor and responsibility for us. In the first day of the maneuvers, over 99 percent of our forces attended. All our comrades are very enthusiastic and very well prepared. Our exercises are twofold. Through this national maneuver, we are getting ready to defend the country and we are assuring the enemy that it will never invade us. We are ready to repel any kind of attack.

[Lobaina] What can you tell us about the Yankee maneuvers?

[Cordovez] The Yankees are conducting these maneuvers to try to hurt and attack our country. They do this inspired on their dreams of expansion. We are conducting our maneuvers to defend our sovereignty and country above all things. [end recording]

Tank Unit Participates

FL0405020690 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] As Agramonte's cavalry, the Steel Fist tank unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces' high command has joined the Cuban Shield maneuvers. [video shows military armored vehicles] Armored antiaircraft defense equipment has begun combat. The troops are getting ready to repel a limited attack of fighter and bomber planes in the Western region. It only took minutes for our combatants to break the enemy's attempted attack. The (Chilcas) and CU-23-2's are causing heavy damage to the attackers. Our combat morale is so high and our troops' training is so good that the casualties and material losses are insignificant. The invader has failed in its attempt and has paid dearly for its boldness.

[Video shows soldiers in formation being addressed by an unidentified man in uniform who says: "Comrade combatants, we have rejected the enemy's aircraft, our maneuver has been a success."; applause]

Action is not over for the Steel Fist tank units. The Cuban Shield maneuver has predicted a possible landing and the deployment of airborne units. The steel cavalry will now show the enemy the Mambi machete in a demolishing and destructive charge. The combat resources are being stripped from their camouflage. Men and machines are now an unbreakable piece. Cuban Shield is adding a new modality. The enemy aviation intends to carry out isolated attacks, however, antiaircraft equipment has maintained its number-one position. Once again, the attackers are targets of fire and shrapnel as they will be in reality if they attempt to measure their forces with our people. Cuban Shield is a show of our might.

Officers Verify Effectiveness

FL0405022790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Party and government leaders and high-level Revolutionary Armed Forces officers visited Municipal Staffs and other places in Havana City today. Division General Leopoldo Cintra Frias; Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, chief of the Western Army; and other officers toured the Municipal Staffs of the Havana municipalities to verify the effectiveness of the measures implemented during the Cuban Shield maneuvers.

As a result of the tour, Brigade General Lino Carreras Rodriguez, chief of Staff of the Havana City Province, gave a detailed briefing on the situation in the territory.

The group of officers also visited one of the fortifications being built in the capital. They chatted with the members of the Daniel Bailadin Brigade which is in charge of the important defensive project. Beginning on Monday [7 May], there will be 10 brigades in Havana building large fortifications in various municipalities. They are working on six at this time.

Supreme Soviet Delegation To Visit

FL0305211890 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2004 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The upcoming visit of a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to our country, which will begin tomorrow, will contribute to the strengthening of interparliamentary relations, friendship, and cooperation. This was reported by the TASS news agency today.

The mission will be headed by People's Deputy Oleg Baklanov and composed of Konstantin Frolov, vice

president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Admiral Aleksey Sorokin; and Valentina Tereshkova, first female cosmonaut; among others.

During their visit to Cuba, which will last until 10 May, the Supreme Soviet representatives will meet with figures of our party and government. The conversations will focus on the situation and outlook of Soviet-Cuban relations. The 30th anniversary of the reestablishment of Soviet-Cuban relations will be marked next Tuesday [8 May].

Raul Castro Welcomes Delegation

FL0405024390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2310 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Cuban Army General Raul Castro welcomed a high-ranking Soviet parliamentary delegation at the Jose Marti International Airport this afternoon.

A few minutes ago, Oleg Baklanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat, arrived in our country. Baklanov was met by Army Gen. Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. Comrade Baklanov heads a delegation of Soviet parliamentarians who are visiting our country in an expression of reciprocity toward the Cuban deputies who recently toured Lenin's homeland.

Raul and Baklanov warmly shook hands on the stairs on the Aeroflot plane. Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women; and Valentina Tereskova, the first female cosmonaut in the world, who is also a member of the Soviet delegation; did the same. Our people remember Valentina with affection. Valentina visited us in 1963 after her trip into space.

Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, attended the welcoming ceremony with other PCC Politburo members, members of people's government organizations, and members of the Soviet mission in Cuba headed by Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov.

During a lively meeting with the Cuban and Soviet press, Comrade Baklanov said:

[Begin Baklanov recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] We are very pleased to be here in Cuba [words indistinct]. We want to express our warm greetings to the Cuban people. We are presently living a very important moment. Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev was here one year ago. We believe that our visit to Cuba will contribute to strengthening the friendly relations that exist between our peoples. I believe that the work we will carry out and the information we will obtain from your hardworking and marvelous people will strengthen our good and future relations. That is what we count on. [end recording]

Army Gen. Raul Castro stated:

[Begin recording] [Castro, in progress] ... to strengthen our relations. We are very pleased to be able to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our relations with the Soviet Union now, as well as the 45th anniversary of the great victory over fascism. Is this the first time you come to America?

[Baklanov] Yes.

[Castro] We are not all that far, eh? [crowd laughs] [end recording]

The delegation of Soviet parliamentarians will fulfill an extended agenda of tours through various sites linked to Soviet cooperation with Cuba.

Vice Foreign Minister Discusses USSR Relations

FL0405030290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Jose R. Viera Linares, Cuban first vice foreign minister, said today that relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union have been and will continue to be an example of mutual respect and benefit for the two nations.

During a news conference held at the headquarters of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of relations between Cuba and the USSR, Viera Linares added that cooperation between the two countries has experienced new forms. After assessing Cuban-Soviet relations in the past, and the new approach adopted since 8 May 1962, Viera stressed that relations between Cuba and the USSR cover increasingly more areas and are currently accomodating to the changes that have taken place throughout the world.

Castro Meets Honduran Congressional Delegation

FL0305125990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1218 GMT 3 May 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] On the night of 1 May, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received the Honduran delegation headed by Rodolfo Irias Navas, president of the congress, and also including Hilberto Goldstein, private secretary of the president of the Republic; Mario Rivera Lopez, advisor to the Honduran president; Deputy Culture Minister Diogenes Cruz; and Marco Tulio Gutierrez, leader of the governing National Party.

During the meeting, marked by a climate of cordiality and open dialogue, opinions were exchanged about Cuba and Honduras, as well as concerning the international situation and that of Central America in particular.

Trade Minister Vila Sosa Ends Visit to PRC

FL0205124390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The talks held in Beijing between Ministers of Domestic Trade Hu Ping and Manuel Vila Sosa ended today with the signing of a cooperation agreement which increases and strengthens trade relations between China and our country. Both ministers stressed the broad outlook for cooperation in this field between the two countries, which are connected by their historical experience and the firm will to build socialism, as both explained. Cuban Minister of Domestic Trade Vila Sosa paid a one-week visit to China at the invitation of Hu Ping, and was received in the Great Hall of the People by Vice Premier and State Councillor Wu Xueqian.

CDR Coordinator on Rectification Process

FL0305132590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Interview with Division General Sixto Batista Santana, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Sixto, do you think that the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] has to rectify its style of work and methods?

[Batista] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba approved the creation of a working group presided over by PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura to study all the mass organizations and their convergence for a single purpose. There is only one purpose for this: so the population is not so greatly affected by so many meetings, with so many tasks. The purpose is to combine all this, to allow the people to rest, and to hold productive meetings where essential problems of the community can be discussed. I think that our organization has to work on all this and it has to be ready to rectify. We are already rectifying and we are in a position to rectify whatever is wrong.

[Reporter] What should the role of the CDR be now?

[Batista] Our organization is aware of the historic times the revolution is experiencing. The committees are willing to fight to the end for the defense of socialism. I am convinced that the CDR will not fail the revolution, the party, or Fidel. Our organization already has achieved positive results during the first quarter of this year, and it continues with that spirit. CDR members in the capital will do a great job in preparation for the 26 July ceremony. They will make Havana the most beautiful and the cleanest city.

2d Stage of Troop Withdrawal From Angola Ends

FL0305130390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces has reported that in accordance with the Bipartisan Agreements signed in New York on 22 December 1988 by Cuba and Angola, 831 internationalist combatants were withdrawn in April. As of 30 April 1990, a total of 33,048 combatants have been withdrawn from the People's Republic of Angola. Our country has thus fulfilled the second stage of the plan.

As our people were told, the withdrawal plan is a month behind schedule because of the unjustified actions of the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] against Cuban troops which led to the temporary suspension of the withdrawal of Cuban personnel from 25 January to 24 February 1990.

In accordance with the agreements signed, the entire process of the withdrawal of personnel has been controlled by the UN Verification Mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

Barbados

Sandiford's Itinerary Includes Visit to China

FL0405141690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2338 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados May 3, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford leaves Barbados on Saturday [5 May] for a three-nation official visit to the Far East and Britain. A government statement Thursday [3 May] said the prime minister would visit Japan, Hong Kong, and China; the latter in response to an invitation by Premier Li Peng.

The visit, the statement said, was aimed at strengthening the friendly and cooperative relationship which exists between the two countries. Sandiford is expected to talk with the Chinese on the further development of technical cooperation between the two countries.

In Japan, Hong Kong, and Britain, the prime minister will hold discussions with several financial and business interests. He is also expected to address Barbadian groups in London.

Says No New Taxes in Budget

FL0205233990 Bridgetown CANA in English 2318 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 2, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Erskine Sandiford on Wednesday [2 May] presented a 1990/91 budget of 1.3 billion dollars, free of any new taxation and with major initiatives for agriculture.

Centrepiece of the two-hour presentation in Parliament was the announcement of a 63.4 million dollar (1 BDS

dol [Barbados dollar] = 50 cents US) action plan for the sagging agriculture industry, including the debt-ridden sugar sector.

Sandiford forecast an overall deficit of 170 million dollars, including the estimated 33 million dollar cost of personnel reclassification in the civil service. This envisaged current account spending of 1.02 billion dollars, capital expenditure of 243 million dollars, revenue of one billion dollars and amortisation payments of 92.9 million.

Sandiford said the agriculture action plan was based on an expert study and would be centred on a programme aimed at the recovery of sugar and on agricultural diversification. The plan includes a refinancing package for the sugar sector, provided it agrees to an overhaul of the organisation and management structure of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited—the private sector company which runs the industry.

The sugar component also calls for a modernisation of local sugar factories, rationalisation of machinery equipment and vehicle use, new research, farm development and fresh irrigation systems.

Interest rates which were increased last year after credit restrictions were imposed to protect the foreign reserves will be eased by mid-year.

Sandiford, presenting his third budget since taking over as minister of finance in 1987, said the foreign reserves had stabilised somewhat at 271.1 million dollars as of last Friday [27 April], compared with 199 million last December.

"While we still have to maintain a rather tight monetary policy, I believe that the time has come for some ease in the credit restrictions and interest rates. Details of the modifications in credit policies will be worked out in consultation with the Central Bank and should be in place by June 1, 1990," he said.

With immediate effect, stamp duties on raw materials from Belize and St. Kitts Nevis were removed. Government also removed the import duty and consumption tax on computers and software, as well as the consumption tax and stamp duty on imported bottles, cans, lids and crowns for the local soft drink industry.

Commercial attaches are to be appointed at designated overseas diplomatic missions to stimulate commercial and trade activity and information flows. Sandiford announced proposed administrative reforms in the major tax collection centres—customs, inland revenue and land tax—to improve efficiency and strengthen their collection capability. These agencies now collect 80 per cent of taxes.

Four new posts of professional accountant will be created in the Inland Revenue Department to help deal with the incidence of white collar crime.

Sandiford, in his review of the 1989 economic performance, noted that growth reached 3.5 per cent, with gross domestic product reaching 2.9 billion dollars. GDP per capita, he said, was a record 3,500 dollars.

Tourism, key plank of the economy, contributed one billion dollars. Total visitor arrivals amounted to 802,000, compared with 742,338 in 1988. The number of long stay tourists rose by three per cent and cruise ship day trippers by 15.7 per cent. Exports of sugar, once another pillar of the economy, produced in a "disappointingly low 47.1 million dollars."

Total exports were up 5.7 per cent to 374.4 million dollars.

Manufacturing output was up 5.4 per cent and construction by 8.1 per cent.

The prime minister said the 1989 balance of payments deficit totalled 70 million dollars and a record 4,180 houses were completed in the year.

Inflation increased by a "moderate" 6.2 per cent.

Sandiford lamented the high level of debt amortisation payments his government had to make in 1989—143.9 million dollars. The national debt he said at December 31, 1989 stood at 1, 695.1 million dollars—5.1 per cent above the previous year's.

Some 878 million dollars of the debt was domestic and the remainder, 817.1 million, foreign.

Haiti

Fourth CEP Installed by President Trouillot

FL0305201890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Italicized passages in French]

[Excerpts] Provisional Haitian President Ertha Pascal Trouillot installed eight of nine members of the fourth version of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] yesterday, 2 May, at the National Palace. Mrs. Trouillot, who did not deny that it is the CEP's prerogative to organize elections, suggested to the CEP that they hold presidential and legislative elections before other, less important elections—such as municipal and Casec [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections] elections. Mrs. Trouillot gave the short time her government has in which to hand power over to a definitive government as the reason. [passage omitted]

The president said that by holding presidential and legislative elections first, the CEP would be responding to one of the Haitian people's principal demands. She also discussed the critical state of the nation's coffers, which the preceding governments left empty.

Regarding the first stage of elections, Mrs. Trouillot's government called on international organizations such as the United Nations, the OAS, and other Caribbean nations to help by providing election experts—without, however, going too far.

[Begin Trouillot recording] *We will undoubtedly, for this first quick stage, benefit from technical and financial aid from international organizations such as the United Nations Organization, the Organization of American States, or the organization of Caribbean countries; who are ready to give us, at our request, the aid of their election experts without intervening in decisions which are up to us alone to make. We will undoubtedly also benefit from the concern friendly countries (?have)—within that same strict respect for national sovereignty—with seeing us at last join the community of nations in which the benefits of democracy are in bloom. Nevertheless, it remains true that our own effort to move forward—as is proper, and in an effective and decisive manner—will ensure there is a freely consented to and ardently desired turning aside from pernicious authoritarianism, as well as the breeze of freedom and fraternal solidarity that is part of the commandments and imperatives of our own history and its erring ways and the bitter lessons of its turmoil, and the nation's realities and needs.* [end recording]

We must bow to a rule of law, without which court decisions will deteriorate into anarchy and settling of accounts through violence, said Mrs. Trouillot, who therefore called on everyone to collaborate so public action will be just.

Aside from the matter of contraband, the president also announced a series of measures to lower the cost of living. They will lower the prices of certain products of prime necessity, such as sugar, rice, construction materials, and medications.

[Begin Trouillot recording] [passage omitted] *In parallel, the struggle against speculation and the damage caused by contraband is continuing, in an effort that no doubt hardly looks spectacular considering all the years of surrender to and unexpected collaboration with the generalized exercising in our ports, towns, and rural areas, of a tentacular evil.* [end recording]

That was at the National Palace, where President Trouillot installed eight of the nine members of the CEP. [passage omitted] Before this installation ceremony took place yesterday morning, the CEP members had been sworn in at the Law Courts.

[Reporter Billon] [passage omitted] After much joyful applause from the large crowd present, Court of Cassation President Gilbert Austin took the floor to hurl a few verbal darts at the three preceding CEPs. [passage omitted] According to attorney Austin, all these things should serve as lessons to the members of the fourth CEP, who, in carrying out their duties, must not favor anyone whomsoever or be animated by a spirit of vengence.

[Begin Austin recording] *The nation belongs to all Haitians. Only the Haitian people should choose. However, regardless of how hard you try to carry out your mission honestly, there will always be sick people who will cast doubt on your integrity, as well as unprofessional, irresponsible media to support such people. Gentlemen members of the CEP, may God assist you.* [end recording] [passage omitted]

Third CEP's News Conference Focuses on Finances

FL0305162690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 2 May 90

[Following report in Creole]

[Text] [Excerpts] [passage omitted] The management council of the electoral council [CEP] that has been dissolved held a news conference on 30 April at CEP headquarters on Pavee Street, where four of the nine members of that CEP reported to the press on their management after one year of operations. The press was also able to visit several parts of the premises at the management council's invitation.

Many important points were discussed during the news conference. Almost all of the questions were on the financial aspects of the CEP's management: How much money did the CEP have at its disposal to organize the elections? How much is left now? What were the salaries of the members of that third CEP? Did that CEP's expenses exceed its budget? If not, how much money is left? In short, the entire news conference was on the financial aspects of the matter.

Professor Louis Antoine Auguste, president of the third CEP which no longer exists, had to give the journalists a general financial report on the management of the third CEP after a year of existence—a report that political leader Sylvio Claude did not find very convincing. [passage omitted]

The speakers refused to directly and clearly answer the question regarding the amount of the salary of the nine CEP members. The journalists, who were not at all satisfied with Auguste's answer, were very insistent. Finally, Auguste said, with all reservations, that each member of that CEP made as much as a minister makes. That means they made $4,000.

Another council member, Archange Leon, out of a desire to show he was honest, added that the money they were making at the job exceeded $6,000, when one included the additional funds they were given for expenses. [passage omitted]

Roy Finds ANDP Document 'Inadmissible'

FL0305173690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] In a statement made public last Monday [30 April], the three-party alliance [National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, ANDP] comprised of MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti], and MNP-28 [National Patriotic Movement of 28 November], demanded that an electoral

calendar be published within a week after the new electoral council is installed. [passage omitted]

Jean Claude Roy [of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists] feels the ANDP's demands are inadmissible and repugnant.

[Begin Roy recording] Indeed, I find inadmissible the statement issued by the ANDP this morning, for the ANDP too is a member of the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] and should know about all the initiatives we (?were undertaking) to hold a meeting, with all four parties: the government—the executive—the AC, the State Council, and the Army. And it should also know that we are very much aware of the instability, the fragility, of the transitional government, a government that we ourselves conceived.

Therefore, I find the ANDP's statement inadmissible—in fact even repugnant. This statement serves only to cast even more doubt on this government and, in fact, even joins the camp of those who want to destabilize it. [passage omitted]

Thus, I find reproachable, criticizable, the ANDP's statement, which asks the government to interfere with a CEP that has not yet even been sworn in, which asks the government to meddle in the affairs of this allegedly independent institution and publish an electoral calendar within a maximum of seven days. [passage omitted]

And what is worse are the threats, the sort of ultimatum, the dictates that the ANDP gave, caring not a whit for the opinion of the other members of the AC. The document threatens that if this is not done, the ANDP will have to reconsider its position vis-a-vis the government and could perhaps even find itself opposing the government—thereby possibly joining the camp of those who wish, precisely, to destabilize this government?

It is because of this particular point that I wonder if this document, which was drawn up while the main leaders of the members of this alliance were out of the country, is not a setup—for we know that the leaders of two of the parties making up the ANDP were not in Haiti.

In any case, as far as I am concerned, as I am not speaking in the name of the AC, let us hope the AC meets on this matter to take a stand on the ANDP statement, which appears to compromise even the very existence of the AC, the entire AC. I think there should be an AC press release in response to this isolated attitude of one of the AC members. And I would like to conclude by protesting, most formally and vigorously, this kind of meddling, the issuing of such dictates of which already shows us what kind of a government we would have should the ANDP win the elections. It would thus be a government that would scorn the autonomy and independence of all the constitutional institutions. I deplore that, and I regret, for all my friends....[rephrases] I have many friends in the ANDP, and I regret that they failed to understand the implications and seriousness of that document. [end recording]

That was Jean Claude Roy's reaction.

Ministry Announces Shutdown of TNH for Changes

FL0305154990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] National Haitian Television [TNH] is being shut down for some changes. A press release from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination says that within the framework of the reorganization of the government media, the ministry announces that as of tomorrow, Wednesday 2 May [as heard], TNH will be shut down so that some changes can be made.

We inform listeners that on 30 April, TNH employees circulated a petition in which they asked that some changes be made within TNH. We will return to this matter later.

Attorney General Denies Tension With DEA

PA0105220890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1655 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Mexico City, 1 May (NOTIMEX)—Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo denied today that there is any tension whatsoever between his branch and the DEA over the investigation of the kidnapping of Mexican Doctor Humberto Alvarez Machain.

He said that his branch is working to solve the kidnapping of Alvarez Machain, who was kidnapped early in April at Guadalajara and taken to the United States where he was turned over to U.S. judicial authorities.

Nevertheless, he said, his branch has yet to determine if agents of the DEA or the Attorney General's Office are involved in the case, and added that there are rumors about "Lara," an alleged U.S. DEA agent.

He explained that his people are working on "reviewing the rules, as stated by Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales, for respectful and reciprocal cooperation between the two parties."

Alvarez del Castillo was interviewed at Constitution Square shortly before President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived to lead the 1 May parade with the Labor Congress leadership. He emphasized that they are working on the Dr. Alvarez Machain case and "steady progress is being achieved."

"This is an investigation in which agents of the DEA and the Attorney General's office may be involved," he stated.

* Leaders Differ on Influences Affecting PAN

* Calderon Answers Criticism

90CA0008A Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 6 Mar 90 pp 1, 5

[Article by Jose Quintero Arias]

[Text] If we were to deny that "fascistoid groups are infiltrating, we would be fooling ourselves, but we're saying which ones they are, and in any case what we want is for those people who come from those groups to forget about where they come from and to work only for National Action," Jose Angel Conchello, the president of PAN [National Action Party] in the Federal District (DF), told this newspaper in commenting on the involvement of people from MURO [New Direction University Movement] and DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action] in PAN.

For his part, Felipe de Jesus Calderon, a PAN member of the Federal District Assembly of Representatives and of the PAN National Council, acknowledged that there are activists from the aforementioned organizations in PAN, but at no time have they been allowed "to act as a group." He emphasized that the statutes and regulations of National Action "have in no way been violated in relations with intermediate organizations."

Calderon indicated that there are "inappropriate assessments in the sense that we have been infiltrated by MURO or DHIAC or business groups. In any event, let them produce convincing evidence, let them name names." He said that in the case of Francisco Gonzalez Garza, a member of the PAN National Executive Committee (CEN) who has been linked to MURO, "they should say exactly at what point he has violated the statutes or the regulations."

"What is more," he said, "Gonzalez Garza arrived in PAN when Pablo Emilio Madero was the party's national president; so, when Mr Luis H. Alvarez arrived, he was already involved in the party." He added that if the criticism also extends to the party's businessmen, then we have to remember that Madero, Jorge Eugenio Ortiz Gallegos, Miguel Hernandez Labastida, Jose Angel Conchello, and Jesus Gonzalez Shmall himself "are or were too."

He then indicated that now is the time to give the party a chance to work for unity, "not to wear it down any more with challenges and internal struggles. This wears the party down, distracts public opinion, and in no way furthers PAN's cause."

The young DF Assembly of Representatives member noted that he agrees with all of "the criticisms of the party, but not with the critical currents." He indicated that the white and blue party must hold a convention that places before the public the political line that must be followed, but "let it be understood that the tone of the comments that have been made in no way benefits us."

He denied that PAN was running the risk of a split and noted that the party president is empowered to enforce the statutes. One of the penalties in them applies to those who "with their statements damage the party." He commented that one of Alvarez' virtues has been to withstand all kinds of criticism and not to go as far as "curtailment."

Jose Angel Conchello, who is also the coordinator of his party's members in the Federal District Assembly of Representatives, insisted that groups like MURO, DHIAC, ANFICEM [expansion unknown], and Tecos have never been strong at the polls and "hang on to PAN to achieve goals that they cannot alone; they are pressure groups that do not show their faces."

Conchello denied that PAN has grown thanks to these groups. "I say that it is thanks to PAN's growth that these groups have infiltrated, have taken advantage of our good faith, of our integrity of principles to achieve goals that are not PAN's."

He went on to say: "They were given free rein, free access, because we're a party that is open to all currents, but unfortunately they continue to act as groups."

He also reiterated that PAN regulations prohibit leaders of other organizations from seeking to be officials in PAN. "They can come in only as members, and if they want leadership posts, they must forget where they came from, but unfortunately we've been unable to manage this."

In conclusion, he stated that the reason for "saying who these fascistoid groups are is so that we do not fool ourselves and fall into their traps."

* Ortiz Gallegos on Concerns

90CA0008B Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Mar 90 p 4

[Article by Jose Quintero Arias]

[Text] The infiltration of PAN [National Action Party] by groups that do not have the same party interests "is very serious," although this is not a new problem; it has been going on since 1980, Jorge Eugenio Ortiz Gallegos, a former federal deputy and member of the party's National Council, told this paper. He then underscored: "The National Committee fell into the hands of a group that is not guided by PAN traditions."

Interviewed in his San Jeronimo home, where he is recovering from a viral flu, the man who until recently was the coordinator of economic affairs of PAN's National Executive Committee asserted that the internal electoral process, the outcome of which was the reelection of Luis Hector Alvarez, was the "first sparring in a very profound debate that could mean a split in the party."

Ortiz Gallegos, a long-time party member, cautioned that PAN's big problem is "that we do not agree on the procedures that the party's current leadership is implementing, and there is a very long list of matters that must be talked over, because otherwise we're running the risk of ultimately losing our identity."

Some ideas and matters of principle have been abandoned, Ortiz Gallegos asserted. He then mentioned other serious problems inside PAN, such as drawing too close to the government in every area, the proof of which is last year's accord on constitutional electoral reform, which in the end "turned out to be a delusion for the people."

Another example, he said, was the excessive political space that has been given to individuals who are inappropriate not because they are newcomers but because of their behavior. "What is more, among PAN's 101 deputies we find that many do not faithfully represent the party's interests and objectives; they haven't been trained in our principles."

"Thus," he emphasized, "in economic policy they are classical liberals or neoliberals, while on electoral matters they are pragmatists. So there is an abandonment of intellectual and political procedures, a lack of identification with PAN ideas and principles, and this is what we regard as harmful, and for this reason we are fighting to get PAN back on the right track."

"We will insist that the group that retained power be consistent with PAN's true essence. This, of course, is the start of a very profound debate that could mean a split in the party, and the electoral process was one of the sparring sessions. Some aspects were debated in depth there, but these differences were not set forth thoroughly, completely."

"In other words, PAN's essential principles have been distorted or betrayed?"

"I can't speak of betrayal or distortion because that would imply fraud, bad faith. I would rather think that some ideas are being forgotten."

"In what way are you being affected by the infiltration of people from MURO [New Direction University Movement], DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action], pro-lifers, the Tecos, or other rightist and extreme rightist organizations?"

"There have, of course, been people who have joined the party with a different outlook, who do not have proper training. There is infiltration, which is serious, by groups that have a very materialistic view of politics, a very neoliberal view of the economy, a very pragmatic approach to elections. These are facts, and they are very serious. This is what we must avoid, contamination, which has been going on since 1980, in fact.

"The National Council must reassume its real role in PAN, because the National Committee fell into the hands of a group that is not guided by PAN's finest traditions. The role of the National Council now is to put the committee in its place, to bring back a democratic party, and above all to confront the all-embracing power of the ruling party and the federal government."

He reiterated that the fact is that the party has "been penetrated by people from different organizations and with very different goals. In fact, right now we don't know how serious this contamination is, but of course there has been deterioration in National Action."

He also said that the electoral process and the reelection of Alvarez are not really over, because as has already been noted, "the winner was not generous, and when the National Executive Committee [CEN] was formed, they didn't accept the 40 to 60 ratio; in other words, of the 25 members making up the CEN, we were supposed to have 8, and they wanted to give us or have us accept just 5. This is an example of the irregularities that we are experiencing in National Action."

* Response by Alvarez

90CA0008C Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Mar 90 p 5

[Article by Jose Quintero Arias]

[Text] National Action is a strong, stable institution, and those who think that there are individuals or groups "that could take over the party are doing PAN [National Action Party] a disservice," Luis Hector Alvarez, the party's national leader, told UNOMASUNO.

Without concealing his displeasure over the published remarks in which PAN members themselves have said that MURO [New Direction University Movement], DHIAC [Comprehensive Human Development and Citizen Action], Tecos, and other organizations have infiltrated PAN, Alvarez underscored: "Those who have evidence of this should produce it, because the only thing that I have seen is the expression of different points of view."

For her part, former federal deputy Cecilia Romero, the assistant secretary general of PAN's National Executive Committee, denied that "groups are operating inside National Action." She admitted that "it would be serious if they were any, and if those members of PAN, who are all friends, have evidence, they should bring it forward so that a commission can be set up, at the leadership level, to investigate these alleged facts."

She added that it "is important and urgent to clarify this situation, to clear up this alleged clandestine infiltration by groups that are seeking to take over the party. A democratic political party runs these risks, of course."

She also acknowledged that membership in PAN is a strictly personal matter, and "where those of us who are members today come from is not important. They can come from wherever they want; as long as they behave and comply with the party's statutes, there's no problem." She warned, however, of the "risk" of acting behind National Action's back.

Luis Hector Alvarez was asked about the infiltration of PAN by groups like MURO, DHIAC, Tecos, and others. His reply was:

"Affiliation with the party is individual. This has been during my term, but if there are members who feel that the institution is in danger, they should immediately file specific complaints." He added that in National Action "the existence of civic organizations whose purpose is to expand the involvement of citizens could be regarded as beneficial to the country, and of course I'm not talking about organizations that could have other goals, that would like to operate as pressure groups."

He then noted: "National Action is a stable, strong institution, and those who think that there are individuals or groups that could take over PAN are doing a disservice to the party."

"We know that PAN regulations prohibit action by groups or corporativism. But couldn't there be action going on behind the party's back?" this reporter asked. A somewhat annoyed Alvarez replied:

"You keep talking about groups inside National Action. What I perceive is the expression of different points of view. This is nothing new either. Allow me to tell you again that this has been a trait that has distinguished the party from other groups since its birth."

"Don Luis, you said that PAN's doors were open to dissidents and that, if appropriate, you would go out looking for them. Is this correct?"

"There is always a winner in an election. This is part and parcel of democracy. If someone was not completely satisfied, well, I'm not going to convince him, although this is nothing new, nor does it by itself endanger the institution. There are people who express themselves freely, and whoever thinks that this is planting the seed that could harm the party simply doesn't know how a truly democratic institution operates. This should be the norm."

"Do you have contempt for the group that lost?"

"You're saying that. I've never expressed contempt for other members."

"But they're insisting that there were irregularities in the internal electoral process and they remain dissidents."

"I've already expressed my point of view. If you want to hear the opinions of others, I think that you have to go and see them."

"Aren't you going to seek out those in the other group?"

"Well, you keep on talking about the people on the other side. I insist on expressing my own point of view," he replied in annoyance.

He was asked whether he had anything more to say about the recent PAN balloting in which he was reelected. He asserted:

"Nothing besides what we've already pointed out, that it was another exercise in the party's internal life and that it seems that the public was more interested in it this time. But this is proof that National Action is a political party that has exceptionally important influence. What happens inside it matters not only to its members but also to those who are observing the national picture from other angles. It's another demonstration that the party is facing up to the risks of democracy, that the party's officials are chosen democratically. I feel that it's a contribution by PAN to the democratization of the country."

In conclusion he was asked about the current situation in PAN. He said: "The party needs to be and, moreover, is increasingly willing to be the instrument for those who would embrace its tenets and who could have the appropriate channels to belong to National Action."

* Division Among Oaxaca Clergy Over Coadjutor

90CA0016A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 697, 12 Mar 90 pp 20-23

[Article by Rodrigo Vera and Isidoro Yescas]

[Text] Oaxaca, Oaxaca—"Let those who are without sin cast the first stone," says Bartolome Carrasco, archbishop of Oaxaca, where priests (75 percent) have violated their vow of chastity.

"At the age of 71, I can't do it anymore," he adds.

A conflict is now raging that actually goes back to early 1988, when Carrasco asked the Holy See to send him an assistant to help him succeed in getting his priests to keep their vow of chastity. However, the envoy, coadjutor Hector Gonzalez, went much further, and taking complete control of the archdiocese, harassed Bartolome's followers, and, instead of enforcing discipline, forced the conflict out into the open.

In order to ask him to cease the harassment, a commission of Oaxaca priests traveled to the Apostolic Delegation in Mexico City on 22 January to ask Delegate Jeronimo Prigione to come and talk with them.

"In other words, you have come representing that corrupt archdiocese," is how they say Prigione dryly received them.

The commission was made up of: Ignacio Cervantes Montes, provicar general; Alberto Pacheco, pastoral vicar; Manuel Arias, chairman of the youth pastoral commission; Juan Loera Pinedo, parish priest of Teotitlan del Camino; Hector Sainz Gonzalez, professor at the Tehuacan Seminar; and Sergio Herrera, coordinator of the presbyterial council.

The delegate finally came to Oaxaca on Wednesday, 7 March.

"What is the purpose of your visit, Monsignor?" he was asked as he got off the plane.

"I have come to meet with the priests of the archdiocese."

"For what purpose?"

"Internal affairs."

"Monsignor, we know there are serious conflicts among the clergy of Oaxaca and...."

"Such problems exist in all archdioceses and I do not believe they are serious."

"Is there any danger of a split?"

"No. Here the church is very united. Their differences will be overcome."

The meeting was held behind closed doors that same day, at the Convent of the San Juan Bautista Catechist Nuns. From the stage, Prigione heard the petitions from the 180 priests of Oaxaca who had gathered there. They presented three specific requests:

First of all, they demanded cessation of the harassment of those choosing the option of serving the poor. Second, the regional seminary at Etla, whose line of teachings had been changed by the new coadjutor, should go back to what it had originally been. Finally, they asked that Bartolome Carrasco's authority be restored. They decided to postpone the topic of celibacy.

While the plenary meeting was being held, many of the 125 parishes in the archdiocese were taken over by laymen in support of their priests. Protests euphemistically called "prayer days" were staged in the parishes of Huitzo, Pinotepa Nacional, Nochistlan, Teocomulco, Yucuiti, Chalcatongo, Santa Catarina Minas, and Santos Reyes Nopala.

A pilgrimage of some 200 laymen occupied the Oaxaca Cathedral starting at 1000 hours. Protesters covered the altars with picket signs and remained in the cathedral praying until the meeting ended, as the bells continued to ring.

"It's fine with us if our priests want to have wives. It doesn't matter to us one way or the other. The only thing we ask is that this not be used as an excuse to suppress our pastoral line," said Abdon Rubio, organizer of the religious protest in the cathedral.

A letter of solidarity from the bishop of Tehuantepec, Arturo Lona, circulated among demonstrators. It said:

"We have observed that they are actually trying to destroy the pastoral program which has gradually been put together for several years with the support of all levels of the Church of Oaxaca. To do so, they are using the excuse of restoring clerical discipline.

"We are also concerned about the confusion, division, and scandal being generated in the different sectors of the Church by the de facto failure to recognize the authority of the titular archbishop, which does great harm to the people of God. We profoundly regret this painful situation and wish to share it with you all."

In the meantime, in his meeting with the priests, Prigione heard from representatives of the 16 deanships of the archdiocese, 14 of which asked that Bartolome Carrasco's authority be restored. The delegate considered this proposal "absurd," inasmuch as come what may, Coadjutor Hector Gonzalez had been given "special powers from Rome," as a result of which he alone would have the "last word" on resolutions of the archdiocese.

"Does Canonic Law say a coadjutor has the last word?" someone asked.

"I spoke with the Congregation of Bishops in the Vatican and they told me he does," the delegate answered.

It was a tense meeting. Prigione remained inflexible and on three occasions and without specifically taking up the case, urged the priests to cease violating their celibacy.

He threatened them with possible closure of the Southeast Regional Seminary (Seresure) in Tehuacan, Puebla, attended by seminarians from the Southern Pacific

region. He told them that two apostolic visitors had gone to inspect it in January and found "very serious things."

Do Not Attend Mass

At meeting's end, all sat down to eat. Prigione, flanked by Hector Gonzalez and Bartolome Carrasco, nearly always silent, presided over the meal under a painting of The Last Supper. He then proceeded on to the chapel to celebrate a mass for the priests. Openly contemptuous, only abouy 60 attended the service, while the rest returned to their communities.

"We shall not back down. We shall maintain our posture and challenge Vatican diplomacy. If Prigione persists in his intransigency, we shall even refuse to recognize the Apostolic Delegation and form a parallel government. We have had enough of their repression. Oaxaca is the nerve center of the Southern Pacific pastoral region. If its archdiocese is beheaded, the diocese of Tehuantepec and San Cristobal de las Casas will follow. But we shall not allow it," says Fernando Mendoza, parish priest of Santos Reyes Nopala and one of the main leaders of dissident priests.

"And since they have decided to attack us using the angle of celibacy," he observes openly that this principle "was not established by divine law, but rather, by the law of men. Consequently, it can be done away with. Personally speaking, I favor optional celibacy: Whosoever wishes may choose it." He recognizes that it is the isolation in which many priests in the mountains live that causes them to look for wives. "Moreover, there is social pressure of the Indians, who cannot understand why a man would opt for a celibate life."

Brother Manuel Arias adds that they refused to discuss the problem of celibacy at the meeting since it was not the main issue. "We shall do so at the proper time. Our challengers are trying to discredit us by using this issue, but it is a problem of the Universal Church and it happens even in the Vatican. Furthermore, I doubt that 75 percent are violating the principle here. Let them show us proof. They had better have a proper investigation in order to ascertain the correct percentage."

For Antonio Cisneros, parish priest of Huatulco, the apostolic delegate remains "unbending on his position. But at least he has realized that here in Oaxaca, our evangelical option is that of the majority."

Sergio Herrera, head of the parish of Pinotepa Nacional, sees only two future options in relations with the apostolic delegation: "Either we have a reconciliation or we become separated. Whatever the case, we shall continue to defend our position from our parishes. At least I saw more tolerance in Prigione and he no longer called us guerrillas or Marxists."

The fact is that on 6 April 1988, when the new coadjutor arrived, changes began to take place in the archdiocese. Faithfully carrying out his duties, Hector Gonzalez said in his installation speech that he had come to enforce the discipline of the clerics, priests, and nuns.

Bartolome Carrasco was therefore relieved of all powers and would no longer be responsible for the discipline of nuns and priests, a task given to the archbishop by Canon Law. No longer would he have anything to do with parish changes for priests and he would be removed from the training of seminarians. He would not approve the ordination of priests or, what is even more important, have anything to do with the pastoral line.

"He was turned into a mere figurehead, without the power to decide anything at all," commented Juan Ruiz, head of the parish of Los Principes in the city of Oaxaca.

Based on the slogan "Discipline, pluralism, and charisma of discernment," the new coadjutor tackled the cleanup task. On 30 September, he dismissed David Espinoza, parish priest of Cristo Rey in this city, for living in concubinage.

He also began to promote the Movement of Charismatic Renewal, a Catholic line more related to individual piety than community Christianity, more bent on spiritual matters than social commitment, and with marked emphasis on prayer: the complete opposite of the line established by the archbishop, which was inspired by the doctrine of the Second Vatican Council and the episcopal conferences of Medellin and Puebla.

He began to promote spiritual retreats and send laymen to take charismatic courses in other dioceses, mainly Veracruz. His challengers say he even considers religious songs that refer to social struggles and the exclusion of Indians as dangerous. They say that during a visit to the parish of Atoyac, he stopped catechists singing "When the poor believe in the poor."

Nor can they forgive changes he made in the regional seminary of Etla, where he removed members of the faculty and changed the orientation.

In January, he made Eduardo Godinez rector in place of Victor Anguiano. He also removed professors taking the so-called "progressive" line, such as Enrique Marroquin, who taught "Mexican Reality," a subject done away with. He also cut all ties which the staff maintained with the seminary in Tehuacan.

The Etla seminary, located in what was a Dominican convent 15 km from the city of Oaxaca, "is now going through an academic overhaul. Emphasis is being placed on salvation of the soul and the integrity between matter and spirit," says Valentin Alvarez, one of 17 seminarians being taught "Catechism," "Liturgy," "Latin," and "Introduction to the Gospels."

Interviewed by PROCESO, the new coadjutant bishop denies being on a witch hunt for partisans of the preferential option to serve the poor. He claims he is merely promoting pluralism in the archdiocese.

"I did not come to sow discord or train a group of followers. I came to serve everyone. There are brothers so carried away with their values that they fall prey to radicalism and polarization. They have done good work and are well-received. I am trying to make everything work together. No position exhausts the plenitude of the Church."

Hector Gonzalez confirms that Zacatecano, former rector of the Durango seminary and former bishop of Campeche, where he served before coming here, is indeed the person now holding the reins to the archdiocese: "The Holy Father instructed me to take charge of the discipline of priests and direct seminary activities. I did not come to destroy the esteem in which Father Bartolome is held."

"Is it a problem for the Church in Oaxaca that many priests are breaking their celibacy?"

"Yes. It is a worrisome problem and there are many cases. I am handling it through personal dialogue with respect, Christian spirit, and real charity. My mission is to accomplish the recovery of persons and not apply sanctions. This is a worrisome problem because those of us who are part of the Church are summoned to live in chastity and obedience."

And yet, everything seems to indicate that, far from disciplining the priests, Hector Gonzalez has caused an even greater conflict in the Oaxaca clergy. Furthermore, a problem has gained public attention that Ernesto Carripio Ahumada himself, now cardinal primate of Mexico, was careful to conceal when he was archbishop of Oaxaca, from 1967 to 1976, as those interviewed report.

During the almost 2 years he has served as coadjutor, he has faced assaults from the followers of the doctrine of the Second Vatican Council. A letter circulating in many parishes of the archdiocese, "Letter to Hector," contains a challenge:

"We see that you are greatly concerned by the fact that some of our brother priests are not celibate. How we wish you were equally concerned about important issues of law: our undernourished, oppressed Indian brothers; the complicity of the hierarchy with a usurper government; election fraud that violates human dignity; the lack of any real evangelizing among the people of God; the new and unjust minimum wage that condemns millions of workers to a subhuman life; priests who deal in the sacraments.

"Discipline, however necessary, is not the most important issue of Christian life. Furthermore, to use it as a letter of introduction seems to us to be disrespectful and poor strategy. How sad it is to see a pastor acting more like a policeman enforcing the law than a brother walking with us shoulder to shoulder toward the same goal."

Celibacy is in fact a disciplinary matter that gradually gained ground in the Catholic Church. It became part of ecclesiastical legislation in the 14th century by virtue of Elvira Canon 33 and an analogous law of the Roman Council in the year 386. For others, the celibacy of priests was simply introduced by human law.

Bartolome Carrasco asks for understanding for priests in his archdiocese who have violated this principle. "We all have our failings; that is part of human frailty. And let it be clear that this problem is not exclusive to Oaxaca and that I have not dealt with it publicly out of loyalty to my conscience and my mission."

Costa Rica

Arias Delivers Legislative Assembly Speech

PA0405001790 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2127 GMT 1 May 90

[Speech by President Oscar Arias to members of the Legislative Assembly at the Legislative Assembly Building in San Jose—live]

[Text] Mr. President of the Legislative Assembly, Supreme Court magistrates, Supreme Electoral Tribunal magistrates, comptroller and deputy comptroller, attorney general and assistant attorney general, archbishop and clergy of Costa Rica, honorable diplomatic corps, first vice president, second vice president, government ministers, deputies:

I come today to fulfill for the last time the constitutional mandate of rendering an account to my people. I do so before a Legislative Assembly that is meeting for the first time. You represent the dearest tradition of all Costa Ricans—the democracy that we proudly share. I wish you a beautiful period of grandeur for the fatherland. I come to render an account with the same joy and optimism I had at the beginning. I see a destiny of peace, development, and liberty for Costa Rica, which I request with the endearment of a people who have taught me that everything is possible and that there are no insurmountable obstacles when one works faithfully for the values one professes.

During these four years the world has experienced surprising changes. The cold war has ended, the terrifying threat of a nuclear holocaust is vanishing, and the Berlin Wall has fallen. Free and multiparty elections have been held behind that iron curtain to elect political parties in almost all those countries. Mikhail Gorbachev is writing a history of liberty for millions and millions of men who lived under oppression.

In Latin America the path of dictatorships and human rights violations changed to one of opportunity for liberty and democracy. From Nicaragua to Chile the people have been able to freely elect their leaders. The balance between war and peace has definitely leaned in favor of peace. Up until a few years ago, the world was awaiting the outcome of a generalized war in Central America. The merciless killing of Iraqis and Iranians appeared to be endless. Soviet troops had invaded Afghanistan. A defiant Cuba was sending troops to Angola and other parts of Africa. The United States invaded Grenada, and on virtually all the continents aggressiveness seemed to prevail, as did the desire to use force instead of reason to resolve conflicts.

The Central American peace plan was the first to put a stop to the craze of violence and armed solutions. Everything was ready for war. Ignoble men even considered it the correct path. The Esquipulas plan went around the earth like a cry of hope. With incredible speed, everything seemed to change and successful peace negotiations took place between Iran and Iraq. The Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan. Namibia gained independence. The Cuban troops returned humiliated to their country and all of a sudden, every country and men of different ideologies had a new hope—to find a diplomatic solution to their conflicts. Dialogues were held where only weapons had been heard.

During these years we have also seen the radicalization of terrorist practices and the increase of dishonest trafficking, especially of prohibited drugs. The cowardice of these actions are boundless. Aircraft have exploded in mid-air, mercilessly killing innocent persons. Children have been killed in the streets and in churches. Youths working the land and mothers buying bread have not been spared. From the heights of Machu Pichu to the valleys of Ireland, miserable terrorists have sown panic and hatred. The drugs, which kill and corrupt, destroy the youths of the world. Millions of adolescents are already permanently retarded because of drugs. They suffer slow agony because of drugs, which transforms them into destroyed men. Terrorism and drugs are two of the most sinister and cruel threats. Unfortunately, they mark the era in which we live. The struggle against these ills has entered a decisive stage in which no one can be neutral.

Atomic ashes fell over Chernobyl, and there is acid rain elsewhere. Everyday, the air we breathe is killing us. We breathe gasses and stenches in almost every big city in the world. Rivers and seas are more polluted each day. We have less water and less shade. Some holes have appeared in the ozone layer that surrounds the Earth, which is warming, bringing the risk of the possible destruction of all life on the planet if things continue as they are. The struggle to preserve and improve the environment cannot be postponed, and it must be a world effort.

The economy has also changed in just a few years. All [countries], without exception, seek greater participation by the private sector in the production of wealth and services. Almost without exception, all want to reduce state participation in these activities. The world is becoming more international, and huge markets such as in Europe, Asia, the United States, and Canada have been created. The most urgent problems for our countries are: facing the overwhelming accumulated foreign debt, facing poverty, and simultaneously making our economies grow. Thus far, few Third World countries have succeeded in such a difficult challenge. Fortunately, we are among those few.

Science and technology have undergone sudden changes. It will not be long before babies are born with computers under their arms [words indistinct] technology, [words indistinct] with plants and animals, and optic fiber are some of the accomplishments that foretell more important changes to come. Countries capable of taking advantage of scientific breakthroughs are developing higher standards of living; thus the gap between rich and poor countries is widening. Future development is directly

linked to science and technology, and poor countries allot very little to these matters.

Costa Rica is living in this world that changes everyday, and I have been governing in this kind of world. We are a small country, a country with no weapons. We are not a military superpower or an economic superpower. However, we are not mere observers of the changes in humankind. We have risen as a moral power and have become part of the new history.

We are not beating war drums. We preach peace. Instead of closing down laboratories in our schools, we have installed computers. Instead of destroying our forests in search of quick profits, we have started along the path to conserve our blessed Earth. Instead of closing our eyes to the drug problem, we have placed ourselves at the head of the antidrug struggle. Instead of remaining silent in the face of terrorism, we have denounced it at all forums. Instead of creating poverty, we have created jobs and housing. I want to thank you for letting me help you in such noble causes. Costa Rica's crusades have merited the highest awards meted by mankind to those who struggle for peace, to those who strive to improve the environment and maintain democracy, and to those who struggle against drugs and those who erect housing. My great pride as a ruler merges with my pride in being Costa Rican. In this changing world, we are a responsible party of the new political and economic administration of our America, and beyond. I represent peace. I have obeyed the people's mandate of preserving Costa Rica's peace. I swear I have not strayed from that path, not even in my most difficult moments and in the face of unjust criticism, pressure, threats, and underhanded tricks.

I am turning over a Costa Rica whose peace has been strengthened. There are no guerrillas in our territory, there are no soldiers under our flag, there are no dictators on our borders, and there are no military ranks or uniforms. Year after year we celebrate the day the Army was abolished. We were part of a peace plan for Central America, and we worked on it without becoming discouraged. For the first time in the history of the isthmus, the five Central American presidents have been freely elected by consensus.

During the struggle for peace, I visited many countries, and many people visited Costa Rica. They knew about us and about our struggles. Not long ago, to celebrate our 100th year of democracy, we brought together 17 presidents who represented more than 800 million men and women. Our agenda was limitless, and we pledged to promote development, disarmament, and the preservation of our environment, as well as to strengthen democracy, defeat drug trafficking, and lighten our foreign debt payments. For Costa Rica's foreign policy I strongly advocated releasing ourselves from our past inertia and pledging ourselves to the new world and its new agenda.

We left behind the Contadora Group and the Nonaligned Movement. We wonder, what do confrontations mean today, as they no longer make any sense. Likewise, what is the sense of the Group of Eight? How much longer will we continue to drag without modifying an OAS that is not solving our problems and pleases no one? The debate over which institutions we should reform or from which ones we should withdraw is unfinished and urgent.

In the same manner, we are barely starting to solve the problem of the foreign service, which should be exemplary in a country that does not have an army. We created the School of Diplomacy, our ambassadors are approved by the Legislative Assembly, and we have tried to reinforce foreign service careers. However, we are very far from having the professional diplomatic and consular service that the country needs.

Our Central America demands a parliament to consolidate peace. Let us hope that this will be understood by this new Legislative Assembly. The most urgent task is that of contributing toward strengthening the democracies that have been born where they never existed before. The best guarantee for stable peace in Costa Rica lies with strengthening these democracies, with the hope of terminating migrations that cause so much sorrow and seriously affect our economy by forcing us to increase expenditures for health, education, and security.

The alliance for freedom and democracy that we convened when I began my administration is also unfinished. The most flagrant absences are Haiti and Cuba, where we have the world's longest reigning dictator. Many democracies in the Americas are incipient and we must overcome great obstacles for them to develop. We must insist and cooperate so that the remaining dictatorships will come to an end.

Two democracies have never waged war against each other; therefore, political freedom for all of our countries is the greatest guarantee of peace, and it is also the greatest guarantee of the beginning of a disarmament program that will improve our developmental possibilities.

I will now report on the economy. Costa Rica's economy grew at a rate of five percent annually during my term. This makes us one of the three countries with the highest growth rate in Latin America. For the first time in our history, exports in 1989 surpassed $1.6 million, and inflation during that year remained below 10 percent.

New jobs were created at a rate of 30,000 yearly, all of which were absorbed by the private sector. Because of this momentum, the unemployment rate remained below four percent. This figure is among the lowest in the world. I must especially highlight the progress of economic democracy, especially in strengthening cooperation.

These achievements were made while there was a climate of war in Central America and almost all of the countries in the world were undergoing severe economic adjustments. We signed agreements with the IMF and a second agreement with the World Bank to foster structural

economic changes, which basically consist of making our industries more competitive by gradually lowering the tariffs that protect products made in Costa Rica.

Our domestic market is too small for us to claim that by closing the borders we will be able to guarantee economic growth.

We are obliged to make medium-range and long-range plans with our economy. Where do we want to go? How do we want to do it? We sought an economy that is mainly in private hands and to attain this we needed to reduce government participation. The first step we believed we needed to take was to transfer government-run productive enterprises. Good examples are the transfer to the workers cooperative of (?Cacsa) and the future transfer of Fertica [Central American Ferilizer Co.] to the farmers. It is not enough to have production and many services in private hands; we have to be sure that this means efficiency, which should be reflected in low prices for the consumer. We know of no better way to ensure this efficiency than healthy competition. Only if we are capable of producing at good prices can we sell in foreign markets. The noticeable success we have had so far has been at a high cost to the taxpayer through Tax Credit Certificates. This situation must be watched carefully. We may reach a point where the industrial inefficiency that we hide behind protectionism may instead be hidden behind these incentives.

The reorganization of Codesa [Development Corporation, Inc.] as an industrial reconstruction agency is a landmark in the ways the government encourages industrial development. This means that industrial reconstruction programs will have progressively more constructive cooperation between public and private sectors. The development of an agile and efficient financial system is essential for medium-term sustained economic growth. That is why we have continued the gradual process of deregulating the financial system, giving intermediaries greater freedom in decisionmaking. Simultaneously, banks were given instruments and resources for them to comply with the second structural adjustment program. This is especially important for future increases in exports and for Costa Rica's adherence to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT. Joining GATT is one of the most important elements in our country's development strategy.

As for agriculture, upon leaving the government I can say with great pride that the transformation of Costa Rica's agriculture has begun very successfully. Right now, cattle-raising is the sector with the biggest economic growth. It contributes 70 percent of exports and is the country's second largest employer. We have considerable basic grain surpluses, we have significantly increased the variety of export products, and we have considerably lessened our dependency on the coffee market, greatly countering the crisis with a $75 million increase in banana exports. Pineapple, melon, macadamia nut, citrus, and palmetto exports are only some of the new products that have contributed toward gaining increased foreign currency. We are leaving an agricultural sector that is marching toward new horizons—a modern, dynamic, and competitive sector. For its support we have prepared a plan to reorganize the institutions, with financing from the World Bank and AID.

As no other government has, our government has backed the purchase of land for peasants. Just last year, we earmarked 1 billion colones to purchase farmland, followed by the distribution of thousands of land deeds. We encouraged with important agro-industrial export firms the signing of agreements to allow the sale of peasant settlement production. We have worked seriously on the design of financial plans that reduce peasant debt. Much effort is still required to fully satisfy the support needs of the small farmer and producer. More resources are needed to get peasants fully incorporated into national agricultural production, not only for their own benefit, but for the country's. I want to leave on record the important steps taken, which is an achievement and a source of great satisfaction.

We have strived to develop tourism in its cultural and economic aspects. Our country is looked upon favorably abroad because of its peace and democratization efforts and the positive changes in the Central American political situation; these two factors have increased tourism in Costa Rica. Thanks to the cooperation of a group of Costa Rican businessmen and professionals, we prepared and implemented a program to reorganize the tourism sector; as a result, it is being developed with optimism. The hotels' occupancy level has surpasssed 90 percent, and agreements were signed during the first months of 1990 for investing millions [currency not specified] to modernize and expand current tourism facilities. We are interested in guaranteeing the protection of our ecology and culture while pursuing this development.

Regarding the highway system, this administration outlined a definite policy for allocating resources for the repair and maintenance of our highways on a priority basis. Turning to the construction of new highways, I am pleased to report that many community road projects have been finished and that plans for new highways are underway. The costal highway's construction was continued in some sectors and we have managed to obtain the necessary credits to continue the construction in other sectors. Several projects have been completed in the northern zone and we have received the financial resources to repair the Inter-American Highway. These projects, in addition to repairing several sections of the highways in the metropolitan region and attaining the financial resources for the construction of seven bridges in the Osa Peninsula, marked the conclusion of the Roads for Peace Program. This is only part of what this administration has done to develop the country's highway system.

We have launched an extensive program for refurbishing the international and national airports. We must mention, in particular, the effort to build a modern air cargo

terminal at the Juan Santamaria Airport; this terminal will provide better facilities for the exporters. Moreover, we have launched an ambitious project to enlargen the Llano Grande Airport in Liberia with the intention of supporting Guanacaste's agricultural potential and tourism development. In addition to the routine maintenance work on our country's buildings, including the education centers, we managed to build 500 new classrooms to support the efforts to improve our education system.

Throughout our administration we advocated negotiations to pay our foreign debt with international private banks. We eventually reached an agreement that serves as an example to the entire world. The Legislative Assembly has already approved a law that will allow us to purchase, for 16 cents, each dollar we owe those banks. This agreement with our private creditors will allow us to tell future generations of Costa Ricans that we have sufficient grounds to think that the dream of making Costa Rica the first developed country in Latin America will soon become a reality, like the dream about a democratic and free Central America.

Our economy is small, and it is imperative that we protect it. It is important that it be guided cautiously and managed with political maturity. The needs of the poor in Costa Rica are often urgent and we all would like to solve them as soon as possible. Nevertheless, it would be irresponsible to create expectations about solutions for these problems when the economy cannot provide them. Some variations in the state's revenues and expenditures can bring about immediate effects. For example, a number of factors ranging from lower fiscal revenues due to the drop in coffee taxes to higher expenditures due to salary payments based on court decisions, or the payment of income tax certificates, may change the budget estimates. When this kind of situation arises, adjustments are necessary, but the overall management of the economy cannot be neglected.

Even though our economy performed well in 1989, the national government analyzed the fiscal results seriously because not all of the goals reached with the IMF were achieved. One of the main reasons for this is that salaries increased almost 25 percent, meaning almost 5 billion colones, given the Executive Branch's abidance by the justice court rulings.

Pensions also rose by 27.2 percent, by almost 2 billion colones. Spending was uncontrollable because of the ruling on unconstitutionality. Currently, the state pays 90 percent of the pension expense charged to the national budget. In addition, tax savings certificates increased by 2.5 billion in 1989 and the interest on the domestic debt increased by almost 3 billion colones.

We are always talking about a Costa Rican path to development. In terms of numbers, we are very few. We are so few that we all should look upon one another as human beings. Because of this, we have encouraged gradual changes that would not affect employment or hinder the investment in men, justice, democracy, and strengthening peace, regardless of how difficult the situation is. This is why we speak of an economy with a human face.

I will now discuss housing. We promoted a housing program that is unequaled on the continent. We built 85,060 houses. In a national effort, putting aside political differences, Costa Ricans began to take control the slums. For the first time, they are disappearing from our land. We must not let up in our efforts so that we can become the first slum-free country in Latin America.

We cannot deceive ourselves for a single moment. We are denying those who do not have a home the right to have pride. There are thousands of compatriots who do not the income to purchase a home. I hope that one day the salary of each worker will be enough to cover all of his basic needs, including housing. We cannot sit and wait for that day to come. The state must help build these houses now.

We must not stop this effort. On the contrary, we must speed it up. We are investing in peace and justice and nothing can be more profitable for a nation that is proud of its century-old democracy.

To govern is to educate. It is a slogan used by presidents of many countries on this planet and it is still very true. We proceeded to modernize our education substantially. Nothing could be worse for a Costa Rican than to fall into mediocrity or to become contented with our past acheivements. In a world that changes so quickly, choosing this path will doom us to ignorance. To prevent this we have placed special emphasis on the strictness, the excellence, and the modernization of our educational system.

We established the national tests for sixth graders and the high school exams. Classroom and laboratory activities have been increased with the efforts of teachers, students, and parents.

We have substantially improved the preparation of school materials. We were determined to lay the scientific and humanistic groundwork for our students so that they can become the vanguard in the future.

The scientific schools we have created provide unlimited opportunities to those who have a definite vocation for science and technology.

I note specifically our efforts to introduce computers in our schools. As proof of this objective, we have 130 computer science laboratories installed throughout the country, especially in the least favored regions. We reached 68 of the 71 cantons that Costa Rica has: from Upala, Los Chiles, and Guatuso in the north to La Cuesta, San Vito, and Ciudad Neily in the south, as well as Daytonia in Limon. In this way, 2,500 computers have been placed at the disposal of our children. In our contry, computers are not soley for the rich children

now. The day in which we will have a computer laboratory in each Costa Rican school is not far away.

I am pleased to announce that in 1989 we solved the problem of financing Costa Rica's university education thanks to an agreement that this administration reached with the authorities of the four universities that make up the National Rectors' Council.

Those officials, headed by the rector, expressed satisfaction with the solution that was reached. I am sure that from now on those colleges will be able to better fulfill their commitments to Costa Rica.

The national science and technology program scheduled until the year 2000 is the result of a joint effort by 180 specialists from 60 government and private institutions.

Fulfilling of the four basic objectives of this program was begun during this administration. We have supplied our financial and judiciary institutions with scientific and technological systems, and with the necessary personnel for the country's development. There has been active participation in the industrial conversion program through the technological transformation of the productive export sector. We have bolstered and promoted the progress of advanced technology with great intellectual and material content. This program has created competitive advantages. We have popularized science and technology as a means to create an awareness of the importance of improving the people's living conditions. The basic instruments of scientific policy have been created by the National Science and Technological System. It has become a forum that gathers representatives of our society's basic sectors. It has been the source of important advances in science and technology, among them the quest to direct the resources of various institutions until we reach the level of at least one percent of the country's gross national income being dedicated to development and research.

We will now discuss the health sector. Historically, Costa Rican's concern for education has been closely linked to our concern for health services. Together the preparation of the mind and the protection of the body insure equality of opportunities. The National Health System is a coordinated effort by all state institutions. We are conducting a national health policy centered around the increasingly good use of resources, administrative capacity, and the quest for a high degree of local self-sufficiency.

Our policy has allowed the state, which is a guarantor of Costa Rican health, to grant substantially improved services. The index of infant mortality has again decreased after ten years of disquieting stability.

In the field of social security, 91.2 percent of the total population of the country is now covered by benefits to meet medical, disability, old age, and death expenses. We can state that the Social Security System is a fact in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Social Security Fund has experience with new models, such as improved medical attention, overall attention through cooperative organizations, and overall centralization with the active participation of the community. Future evaluations of these models will allow determining which models should be used in each region of the country to improve the national health system.

As for the construction of hospitals and clinics, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund has carried out its greatest task in history. During this term, it has constructed new clinics in Tibas, Orosi, Pavas, Coronado, Aguas Zarcas, Pocosol, (Horquetas), La Virgen, and the branch at Santa Cruz. The clinics at Cartagena, Guadalupe de Cartago, San Juan de Tobosi, as well as the branch at Guadalupe are undergoing construction and will be completed this year.

At the beginning of my administration, the potable water works system was in a critical stage, to the point that we had to restrict construction permits for housing and residential development projects. Now, we have a supply of water greater than the demand; therefore, we have eliminated seasonal water rationings. This represents an advance in improving the health conditions of all Costa Ricans. Over 92 percent of the homes receive an adequate water supply from a national water system.

During our administration, the rate of rural water works construction increased to an average of 141 per year, twice as high as in the previous 10 years. Concerned about environmental protection, through the Water Works and Sewage Institute we have promoted programs to protect and improve water basins. The capacity to cope with emergency situations was proven on two recent occasions. The first one was during Hurricane Joan, and the other one was when the Orosi [not further identified] sytem was momentarily knocked out of service. In neither one of these cases, did the [word indistinct] suffer any discomfort or have problems.

I want to talk about the environment. This administration made a commitment to preserve the natural resources of Costa Rica for the future generations and to promote its rational exploitation for the benefit of the population. This commitment lead to the creation of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy, and Mines. Thanks to its hard work, our small country is now known in the world for preserving wildlife. We have the best and most developed method of preservation and the first center in the world for Tropical Biology Research. The creation of the National Institute of (?Bio-University), which we promoted and sponsored, is a pioneer project.

The national strategy of preservation for development is an effort by our government designed to guide with a long-range vision, based on the rational use of natural resources. Over 100 professionals and scientists from all fields have contributed to this unique process.

The emergency forestry declaration and the subsequent control of the illegal transportation allowed us to reduce

the rate of deforestration by 50 percent. On the other hand, greater incentives increased the reforested areas by 1,000 percent.

The 1986-2010 National Energy Plan is a powerful resource for planning methods that what will allow us to conserve the highest rate of electrification throughout all of Latin America. During our term in office, we have expanded the electricity network to all corners of the country and we have reached a rate of 90 percent, with over 100,000 new customers.

A successful campaign to develop an awareness among users allowed us to substantially reduce residential usage without placing uncomfortable restrictions on people.

As for hydrocarbons, we presented a new law to the Legislative Assembly that will allow, among other things, foreign companies guided by the state to explore our subsoil without any costs to the Costa Ricans. Thanks to the studies done by the (?Alamos) project and the (?Anglo-Costa Rican) project, the mining future of the country has been redesigned to offer us ample information on our potential in the field of mineral resources.

The development of the National System of Telecommunications did not stop at all during this administration, in spite of the delay in its expansion as a result of the Legislative Assembly rejecting our financing proposals. Although we have 14 telephones in every 100 homes, one of the highest in Latin America, legislators should know the risks that delays will cause.

As for the quality of life, our government has not neglected any of the factors that affect it. Added to our concern over the environment, we also wanted to improve outdoor recreation sites. New parks and plazas are in practically every town and city of the Republic. Up to now, this aspect has only been a dream. Peace Park, Northern Park, Democracy Plaza, and the Fifth Centennial Plaza were built for the new urban communities. Within the framework of the National Parks and Recreation Areas Program under the first lady, we built 350 parks throughout the country.

In order to cooperate with the early education program of the future citizens, we placed special emphasis on strengthening day care centers. On the other hand, we believe that senior citizens are productive people with cultural and spiritual needs who have not only a right to participate in the democratic process, but also experiences that should be used to enrich society. For this reason we placed special interest on developing day care centers for senior citizens. Both programs provide day care for their respective groups of the population.

Throughout our work, the participation of the family, the community, and local public and private enterprises has been a key factor in the success we have had.

My dear friends: In a few days I will turn over the government. I will do so at peace with my people because I worked unyieldingly for each of the things [I promised] when I campaigned for your votes. I have left for the end matters that deal with the struggle against corruption and drug trafficking, the bill to promote equal rights for men and women, and the strengthening of our legal system with the creation of the Fourth Courtroom of the Supreme Court.

I have always maintained that Costa Rica could overcome any obstacles when the causes in which it was engaged were those in which there was broad consensus despite political differences. We used to mention as examples our accomplishments in education and health. However, with joy I now add peace and housing as an example. In that sector, where everything seemed impossible, together we accomplished peace and built the promised housing. The bill to promote equal social rights for men and women will also become a reality. We approved the law and now united, we should change attitudes and act to ensure the full participation of women in our society. This will be the best guarantee that we are capable of becoming a developed country.

To strengthen our democracy and ensure mutual respect between rulers and the people, nothing is more sacred than to oversee the honesty of public servants. I removed from their posts all employees against whom there were justified suspicions. The most important point is that the entire country agreed to wage a decisive crusade for morality. This is how we established the Commission To Restore Moral Values—by carrying out various actions designed to ensure honesty among public employees. In addition, and by consensus, we approved the law on drugs, one of the most advanced in the world to fight drug trafficking. As I have repeated many times, I am certain that together we will be able to uproot this scourge from our fatherland forever. We expelled from the country 2,388 undesirable foreigners, and the greater technical abilities of our police corps have halted various criminal actions.

We are pleased because we created the Fourth Courtroom of the Supreme Court of Justice and have given it constitutional jurisdiction. This is one of the most important judicial institutions created in the second half of this century. Its operation will confirm our faith in the de jure state. We have also reached consensus in various other aspects, which transformed Costa Rica into a winner.

I want to point out that since the Constitution requires a majority vote to contract for foreign loans, there were times when this majority—for political reasons—postponed [decisions] for lengthy periods of time or simply did not make them for the same reasons. This method of opposition significantly harms the possibilities of attaining greater national development. Wherever I may be, I will do all I can to prevent this low and selfish attitude simply because Costa Rica does not deserve it.

I want to thank those who accompanied me in my government, from the minister in each ministry to the most humble public servant. I always had their loyalty.

Ministers will leave their posts not simply with the satisfaction of leaving without a single sign of corruption, but also with the pride of having carried out at each ministry an important and honest task for the enhancement of Costa Rica.

This century will bring many new challenges. We have not ended the cold war to enter into a progressive warming of the earth because we have neglected the environment. We have not overcome the statism that choked our economies to then fall into a state of selfishness that escalates poverty. We have not defeated war to then be satisfied with misery and division. The time has come to develop, because this is the only way to strengthen democracies. The time has come to set parameters to attain sustained development in which nature must be respected. The time has come to work on an agenda for cooperation rather than for confrontation. More than demons to defeat, our challenge is to build the new road for mutual development, long-lasting peace, and indestructible democracy.

Deputies: I received the government four years ago from Luis Alberto Monge. The country had attained significant development under his government. He handed the government over to me in a country in better condition than when he had received it. I will do the same. When I turn over the government, Costa Rica will be bigger and its peace and development will have been strengthened. I have confidence my successor will do the same. I hope we all put forth our utmost effort to never disrupt this pattern on which the destiny of Costa Rica rests. Thank you very much. [applause]

El Salvador

Cristiani Holds News Conference 3 May

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[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters from the presidential residence in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Cristiani] Good morning, this is to continue what we have discussed previously. Perhaps to begin with—because it is a topic or one of the topics you will be interested in—I will approach the subject of the dialogue. Dr. De Soto arrived in our country yesterday, and thus we began one of the two mechanisms agreed upon in Geneva for holding the dialogue process. As you well know, one of these mechanisms is direct dialogue between delegations of the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]; the other is through diplomatic mediation by, let us say, the UN Secretary General or his representative, Mr. De Soto in this case.

In this case, we want to mention that we are trying to find viability through an agenda for the dialogue process and the various opinions concerning this topic to subsequently begin direct meetings that make some headway in the matter.

From what we can foresee, we hope the direct meetings will begin in a week and a half, or somewhere around there. That is when we think they could start. Of course, we are not at liberty to discuss De Soto's specific topics and I again apologize for this. This is based on the agreement we made. Also, the UN Secretary General issued a public call in this regard a few days ago. However, in general terms, we do believe progress will be made and that we will advance quite rapidly.

We believe that once the direct talks begin, this progress will assume an even faster pace. We think that direct talks will begin shortly. This is what I can tell you in this regard, so now we can go on to the questions.

[Unidentified moderator] We ask you to please limit yourself to one question per person and to use the microphone located in the middle of the room. This news conference is being carried live over Radio Nacional and it is important to hear the question being asked. Nancy Perla of "The Newscast."

[Cristiani] She is the first.

[Perla] Mr. President, yesterday the media received a letter from a movement of young officers who are asking for a purge within the Armed Forces. They also mentioned that while they are cadets at the military academy, they are taught about ethics, but when they are in the field, they are taught something else. They call for an end to corruption within the Armed Forces. How do you view this letter, which was received yesterday and had substantial information?

[Cristiani] I have never believed anonymous letters or notes. The fact that it is anonymous casts some doubt on the intentions behind it or about the group that could be sending it. Posing as young officers is easy to do. This could have come from the FMLN—making an issue of all that they have been talking about—or from any other group. I personally do not give much credit to anonymous letters and believe me that here, at the Presidential House, we receive many anonymous letters with all kinds of accusations. This is no way to make corrections.

I believe that the government and the armed institutions are willing to continue to professionalize and modernize the Armed Forces, and that is what is important. The rest of it, much speculation in such notes, cannot be believed.

[Moderator] Marco Antonio Guevara of Channel 12.

[Guevara] Good morning, Mr. President. Do you interpret the announcement of a possible reduction in the military aid to El Salvador as a significant advance in the search for peace or something to the contrary—a danger so that the government will continue to negotiate with the same force it was negotiating with prior to this announcement?

[Cristiani] I see this more from a negative point of view. We see that all the efforts by the FMLN to reach this objective, to get the military aid for El Salvador reduced, have never been any secret. Obviously, they are seeking it because they feel it is something fundamental to them. In their opinion, we do not necessarily share it; it is very fundamental to weakening the government and the armed institution in their defense of the FMLN objective—to seize power by force.

Therefore, if this is what the FMLN wants, I believe that it is at the moment negative, as the conditions to seek a political agreement have been found. It is negative because it could increase the militaristic plans of, if not all, perhaps the most radical FMLN members. We know there are differences among them in the way they analyze and view the situation. Therefore, this could have a negative effect and could work against the dialogue process for which we have been working.

[Moderator] Juan Amadeo Cabrera from La Noticia.

[Cabrera] Mr. President, if the communique issued by the young military officers is true, and if it is true that they are members of the Armed Forces, what is the outlook for the Armed Forces and for your government?

[Cristiani] I believe some speculation would be required. I believe that as an anonymous letter, it cannot be given the credit it deserves, if it was written by someone who is completely responsible. In this regard, I repeat that the Armed Forces have been willing to conduct a process of professionalizing and modernizing. They are trying to improve their institution as much as possible.

[Moderator] Luisa Melgar from Teleprensa.

[Melgar] Mr. President, yesterday the FMLN carried out different armed actions in different parts of the country. A communique issued by the FMLN General Command justified the actions because of alleged human rights violations, repression, and lack of security for civilians. How do you view these actions just when the talks are about to begin?

[Cristiani] I read the communique, and I honestly believe that it is one of the most ridiculous FMLN communiques I have seen to date. It is a justification that is not very justifiable, I would say. I believe the events on 1 May in the morning can clearly be understood. All groups wishing to participate were able to march peacefully. Their freedoms are not being repressed. I imagine you have all heard and seen what they said and did and there were no problems. I feel that this was a way to seek notoriety through the news. This could be one of the reasons. The other reason could be that they are having problems among themselves. We have information telling us that there are differences among the different groups. Some of them view the dialogue as something serious, while others do not, and it could be that these problems are resulting in these irrational adventures by the FMLN. I feel that at this stage of the dialogue process, their actions are completely unjustifiable. That is not all. They have even violated what they have called unilateral gestures made in the past. This shows the lack of seriousness and sincerity in all of them, or some of them, concerning the objectives we are trying to achieve through the dialogue process.

[Cristiani] Guillermo Penate from EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Penate] There are some labor groups that want to be included in the delegation that will participate in the talks with the FMLN. Could this be some sort of disadvantage for the official delegation, because the opposite groups could gain strength?

[Cristiani] I think that is true. Some groups have asked to be included in the delegation. I believe the participation of the different groups is stipulated in the Geneva agreements. We have already explained how the government can allow the participation of political and social sectors of the country. We are not going to change the government commission, which is comprised of government officials for the most part. I believe that the participation of members of social organizations has already been explained in the past.

[Moderator] Raul Beltran from Radio Cadena YSKL.

[Beltran] Mr. President, over the past few hours we have learned about the official statement issued by the commanders of the various garrisons and the High Command. Since you are the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, do you support the document that was published, which condemned the statements made by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez?

[Cristiani] Concerning that situation, I have said that several people have made statements, not just one. There has been public speculation as to what may have happened in the assassinations of the Jesuit priests and the other two people and that is not right. If someone has any information to contribute, and if that someone is really interested in the progress of justice in this country, he should go to the judge to give him the information. He should not continue speculating in public, because it confuses people and obstructs the judicial process.

I would like to mention, for example, that not long ago a delegation of Spanish legal experts visited the country and they were pleased to see how the 4th criminal judge was handling the judicial process, as opposed to other reports that have been released in the United States. However, I believe no one should speculate in public as to what may have happened. If someone has information or evidence, he should go to the judge; otherwise, there will be confusion. In that regard, I believe that the Armed Forces commanders' rejection of Col. Ochoa's statements is just that. In many of the statements they wrote—I did not participate in drafting the statement—they mentioned that they are willing to support and strengthen the judicial process, but they cannot come out in public with speculation because they would only confuse people.

For this reason, I think it would be best for Col. Ochoa to testify in a judge's office or use his rights as a deputy, because there are other means to make known a statement to a magistrate.

[Moderator] Monica Seoane.

[Seoane] James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, expressed dissatisfaction with the slow progress in the trial in the Jesuits' case and set quicker progress of this trial as a condition for military aid for El Salvador. What have you to say about this?

[Cristiani] As chief executive, I cannot speed up, slow down, or alter the judge's decisions. In no democracy can the chief executive dictate orders to the judicial branch. The same happens in the United States as in any other democratic country. I believe that as far as we have been able to see—although there is much urgency in seeing this trial completed; there are great expectations—that the judge is duty bound to continue with the judicial procedures stipulated by Salvadoran law.

The judge cannot use the laws of any country other than El Salvador to make headway in a case. I repeat the opinions of several Spanish jurists who arrived a short time ago. They analyzed the judge's actions in this case and expressed satisfaction with the way in which the 4th penal judge handled the case. Perhaps influenced by the investigation of the coming commission, I think we should consider this a partial result. Even the report says so. At least, Congressman Mockley remarked that this is not a final report of the case, but a progress report. Obviously, the case has not been completed. I think we will have to wait until the end. We cannot anticipate the possible results or the development of the situation. We will have to wait and see the final results. I think that what sometimes makes us say certain things is our common desire to see everything resolved and the outcome of the case. So we are restless.

The other day, I read remarks by General Woerner, former chief of the U.S. Southern Command, on General Noriega's case in the United States. The case is now without counsel for the defense and has other problems. U.S. justice is also impeded from following its procedures. Although there must be many Congressmen who would like to see Noriega sentenced, certain procedures must be followed. This is what happens here. Now, regardless of the trial's development, the chief executive cannot meddle and start dictating instructions to a magistrate or the Supreme Court of Justice, particularly because everyone here says we must stick to democratic procedures.

[Seoane] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani] I must say I would also like to see the case resolved. We must understand, however, that there is only one Salvadoran law. We would not do well by straying from judicial procedures. This is how we must look at it.

[Moderator] David Rivas of AFP.

[Rivas] Mr. President, an official version on the incidents of Tuesday night was circulated yesterday. Among other things, an attack on the President's residence was mentioned. We would like you to explain to us whether this attack was against the private residence or the presidential palace. There seems to be some confusion on this. Also, we would like to know if the violent incidents in the country over the past few hours could affect to some extent the dialogue process that has been initiated.

[Cristani] I do not know the source of any report on an alleged attack on the presidential residence, either the official residence or the private residence. Neither was attacked. There might have been an earlier report that such an attack was anticipated. I do not know who the person was who reported an attack on the presidential residence, either the official or the private one. Neither of them was attacked, though there could have been some information that such an attack was expected. An FMLN column was dispersed in areas close to the two residences. Perhaps someone took it for granted that the attack had indeed occurred after being alerted. I do not know if that was the case. Anyhow, neither of the residences—neither my private home nor the official residence—was attacked. What was the second question?

[Reporter] About the dialogue process.

[Cristiani] We have been tolerant toward the FMLN's positions, which have been somewhat irrational. However, we are convinced of the need to find a short-term solution to the conflict. I believe that this could imply that the FMLN might be trying to hamper the dialogue process, which would mean that they are not being sincere again, in which case the process would be receiving negative signals from them. However, that does not modify our intention, as a government, to continue trying to find a political solution to the conflict.

[Moderator] Felipe Ortiz, SALPRESS.

[Ortiz] Mr. President: In recent weeks you announced that you would invite various social forces to participate in the dialogue process. Could you tell us now, or could you give us some details on who will be invited, and if the organizations in the so-called unified trade unions are among them?

[Cristiani] One of the things we have been doing—which is not easy—is trying to seek representation, particularly among labor organizations. Frankly we have been studying this, and it is really an alphabet soup, because there are so many groups. Anyway, we are trying to find ...[changes thought] Obviously, if there are hundreds of persons, it will be difficult to make a decision. We are trying to be as fair as possible by seeking good representation from both workers and management. Right now I do not know exactly what organizations belong to the union you just mentioned; however, I assume that if they are legal organizations in our country, their names are

included on the list we are studying to come up with good representation of the entire productive sector, including both management and workers.

[Moderator] Maria Dolores Alvear, UNOMASUNO.

[Alvear] Mr. President. I understand that the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions is under the Executive Branch. Has that commission received orders from you to reopen the investigation, because supposedly that commission was closed in January. If so, has any significant progress been made, even though it cannot be published yet due to the investigation process?

[Cristiani] Although the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions is functionally under the Executive Branch, by law it has been conferred the status of an auxiliary justice department. In that regard, when a case is transferred to the Judicial Branch for handling, the auxiliary justice department can continue the investigations as requested by the Judicial Branch, in connection with possible additional investigations that may be required during the legal process itself.

When we submitted the case to the Judicial Branch, it was because everything that was considered technical evidence concerning the case and the initial investigation had been completed. This was corroborated by foreign entities that collaborated with us during that period. Only in the case of further testimony by possible witnesses summoned by the judge would new situations emerge.

That is why we have insisted on many occasions that anyone who might have information should pass it on to the judge, so that it can be channeled to determine if there is merit for further investigation.

Although it depends on the executive branch, the commission is an official justice organization and the judge can instruct it or request that it investigate X, Y, or Z, in addition to what it submitted when the case was passed over to the judge.

[Moderator] Pablo Guillermo [words indistinct].

[Guillermo] Mr. President, the newspaper LA JORNADA of Mexico stated yesterday that Colonel Orlando Zepeda had left the country this weekend with all his family and with a considerable amount of luggage, which would indicate that he did not go on a mere vacation. I would like to know the official version of this. [laughter]

[Cristiani] You say he left when?

[Reporter] Yesterday.

[Cristiani] Well, only if he left very hurriedly after midday. I was with him here yesterday discussing other things, as well as military matters with the defense minister and deputy ministers. He was present, unless he may have left. I doubt it very much, because I had a meeting with them to see the order of the month on Saturday and he was present. Pardon me, that was Tuesday when we had the order for the end of the month. I understand he was present at the commanders meeting. If he left last weekend, it must have been for the weekend, and he returned on Monday.

[Moderator] Maria Cortina, NOTIMEX.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in what way would a cut in military aid affect the peace process?

[Cristiani] We are currently seeing opposite signs from the FMLN in terms of wanting to truly put an end to violence. A sign of this was the night of 1 May when the attacks were carried out. This would indicate that, although not all the FMLN Command, that is the five groups, some groups seem to resist a political solution and favor a military solution, as they have insisted on pursuing for 10 years. Those groups could view a cut in military aid as a sign of weakening of the government and the Armed Forces, and that consequently they would have a better chance of being successful following the military path. That could increase the potential of a military solution in the minds of some. This could reduce the potential of seriously considering a political solution to the conflict.

[Moderator] Raul Monge, Cadena Radio Centro.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how do you view the guerrillas' morale at this moment?

[Cristiani] Well, I obviously cannot but believe that the morale of the guerrillas after the offensive must have dropped considerbly. This is especially so since there was a large sacrifice on their part in the form of casualties and the fact that the offensive did not represent a success, despite their claim that it was only a show of force, which is a lot of malarky. All the prior documents indicated that this was a large-scale operation to the hilt seeking to overthrow the government and to crown a military victory. What I believe was of even greater impact was that they realized that the people of El Salvador do not support them and do not support the path of violence. In that sense, their hopes of a popular insurrection were shattered. On the contrary, the people did not support the FMLN and instead turned their backs on them and showed that they do not support violence. This must have caused an impact on the FMLN and its members. I recently read in a Venezuelan newspaper statements by a commander, whose pseudonym is Gustavo, who said that they were tired of following the path of violence and that a solution had to be found. This demonstrates that some of their ranks are getting tired of the military path. These are indications of what could be. What I want to clear up once and for all is that we do not react to whether or not the FMLN feels strong or feels weak. We know that 100 terrorists in a country can cause destruction and death and that is what we are trying to avoid, although 100 terrorists are not a force that will destabilize a government. However, the damage that they cause is such that we do not want it to continue.

However, the FMLN idea that they have to show force here, or there, or somewhere is not logical. The important point is that the Salvadoran people want to live in peace and tranquility. Therefore, it makes no difference that they may have 1,000, 2,000, or 100. That does not matter. I think that, whether they have a high or a low morale or whatever, with just 100 radicals they could kill people and destroy sources of employment. In sum, they cause panic and terror in some hamlets. I believe that has to be stopped. It is not a matter of who shows force and who does not. Regardless of the demonstrations of force the FMLN may carry out, we still believe that, in the long run, the military victory by the government forces and the government is possible, because they have strong moral support. The government has been elected by the people and has the support of the Salvadoran people. The people support the system and the government, no matter who is heading it, not just a particular individual. However, that is not the point. We do not want this conflict to last 10 years longer, with more bloodshed. Therefore, we are searching for a political solution because we believe in it, not because it suits us because they are stronger or not stronger.

[Moderator] James Lohman.

[Lohman] Mr. President, with the reduction in the U.S. Government's military aid, has your government considered the possibility of seeking military aid in other countries on this continent or from other parts of the world? For example, we know that a country like Israel has given military aid to Central American countries. Have you considered that possibility?

[Cristiani] I can only tell you that, yes, certainly, the government of the Republic has the duty to defend the system and the Salvadoran democratic institutions, and—regardless of what may happen, and we hope that will not occur—if that happens, we will always have to seek alternate resources to defend the country's democratic institutions. A few days ago I listened to statements by some politicians and members of other sectors, who complained because I said: We have the responsibility to defend the democratic institutions, we have to find the resources, and there are other alternatives to get resources for the national defense. Those politicians said it would be disastrous to affect social programs to help the needy. That is actually what those politicians should think about when they ask for a reduction in aid. I believe that is something the government cannot neglect. The government must defend the system from possible attacks—through violence to reach power—which has been termed by Central American presidents and by many countries throughout the world as illegal.

[Lohman] Have you considered [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] All I can tell you is that we are considering some alternatives. However, we are not going to leave the country's democratic institutions defenseless.

[Moderator] We will now have questions in English. Tom Gibbs from the BBC.

[Gibbs, in English] What would be the effect of cutting U.S. military aid? Also, it seems that the Democrats in Congress put as a high priority for the continuation of aid the [words indistinct] Jesuits' case, and also the cleaning up of the officers corps of the army, or changes in the military. How inconvenient would it be to your government, or how [words indistinct] it would be to your government to be able to [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani, in English] Well, I think that, first of all, the effect of the reduction or cut of aid would be two-fold. Firstly, I think it would be a negative signal for the FMLN and for the objective of trying to find an end to the conflict through the dialogue process that has been started. A cut in aid might be analyzed by some of the members, or all the members of the FMLN, as meaning a weakening of the government and its defense and that, therefore, their military victory is now closer. It would make it a lot more difficult to end the conflict in a short while through a political dialogue. Secondly, obviously the government has the responsibility to defend the democratic institutions of the country and will not stand by with a weakened defense. Therefore, this means reallocating resources that might be used for other types of programs—such as social programs, economic, or political programs that the government can have access to—to obviously use for defense purposes. Thus, it would have a twofold impact if that was the case.

On the other hand, I think the judicial process in the case of the Jesuit priests is ongoing. It will be difficult for me [words indistinct] to think that before it has ended, there is prejudgement on what the results would be. I think that the judge, as I said earlier, has received at least the visits of many people. Just recently a group of lawyers from Spain came in and analyzed the case and were very pleased with the way the judge was handling the case, according, obviously, to Salvadoran law.

As for the Armed Forces, I think that the Armed Forces have and will continue certainly with professional life in itself and therefore meaning cleansing itself from people that do not respond to the objectives and principles of what the Armed Forces of El Salvador stand for. This will continue, but will be done through solid basis and not through speculation in either of the cases.

[Moderator] (?Javier) Lander.

[Lander, in English] The Mockley report raised the question that the High Command [words indistinct] just the case. Do you think any knowledge of the High Command is being directly investigated? Do you think, if nothing more, that they might or should be investigated? Also, do you think there is any other country that can investigate the High Command?

[Cristiani, in English] First of all I would say that the High Command—and this is just my own point of view—was very instrumental in being able to carry out the investigation. The High Command made it possible for the investigation to be within the Armed Forces, an investigation that has no precedent in the past with

respect to investigating military units. Therefore, it would be, to me at least, right up front—and this is not trying to imply either way—very difficult to believe that by supporting the investigation and opening up the Armed Forces so that they can be investigated in this case, they would have done so if there were some involvement on their part. Colonel Ponce has testified twice to the judge already. I was told by Colonel Zepeda that he was also sending a letter that he wanted the judge to call him in so he can testify with respect to the case. I think this is what has to be done. I think the judge has been dealing now with two or three appeals from the defense. I think the results of those appeals have been satisfactory with the way the judge has decided on each one of those and that after all the possibility of the appeals to go on normally at the beginning or during the space of the trial. Hopefully, this will move forward. In the last statement made by the judge—not really a statement, but a resolution—that had to do with the last appeal to move the case to another jurisdiction in which he denied that he also in that statement or resolution stated that he would now start calling in other people. He named people from the Military School, the (?Honor) Committee, some other offices that were directly involved up until now. We might be seeing a face now that would be dealing less with appeals on defense and more on active. Again I say it is very difficult to prejudge. I think the Mockley report was, like I said, an interim report. That cannot be a final report because the case is not finalized. Therefore, it is a matter of continuing to watch on what is going on in the case.

[Moderator] (?Jesse Russell).

[(?Russell)] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani, in English] That all depends on how you define minor and major. The changes within the Armed Forces is an ongoing process. The professionalization process is one which deals with who are the officers that have proven to be more professional and more apt to continue to go on and become the leaders of the Armed Forces. I do not want you to call minor or major.

[Reporter, in English] Two days ago you announced several things.

[Cristiani, in English] I didn't announce anything.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani, in English] I didn't say anything whatsoever to CNN about any changes in the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani, in English] I don't know. As you know, obviously the problem is not over yet.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani, in English] I didn't say anything about military changes in the interview with CNN.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Cristiani, in English] They say another each month.

Guerrilla Leader Praises U.S. Policy Change

PA0405024390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2331 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] San Salvador, 3 May (AFP)—Commander Jorge Melendez (Jonas), a top Salvadoran guerrilla leader, admitted on Thursday that there was a change in U.S. policy toward this country and said that the George Bush administration now "favors" a negotiated political solution to the war.

Melendez, who is a staff member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in the eastern department of Morazan, said on the clandestine station Radio Venceremos that the Americans are making a foreign policy change.

"Jonas" talked about a possible cut in U.S. military aid to the government of President Alfredo Cristiani, saying that "we can now say that this change announces the framework of his policy today."

"Just as they imposed the war, today they are also imposing conditions that contribute to the search for a negotiated political solution," the guerrilla leader said.

A U.S. Senate subcommittee voted for a cut in U.S. military assistance to El Salvador and linked another cut in the aid to the progress made in the negotiation process to end a war that has lasted a decade and killed 72,000 people.

To deal with the cut in military aid, the government of Alfredo Cristiani said that the situation would force it to make budget cuts in other areas, such as in health and education.

In this regard, "Jonas" said that the government warnings are aimed at maintaining the military struggle at the expense of "severely punishing the people and all lower-class groups."

However, Melendez insisted that "the military policy in El Salvador is weakening...and new conditions are being opened."

Junior Officers Support Ochoa in Document

PA0305155690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The young military officers who have circulated a 5-page letter outlining their views contend that the violation of human rights and the neglect in correcting wrongdoings committed by the U.S. advisers and Embassy are the main problems keeping the country mired in war. The officers add that they do not trust the current U.S. ambassador, whom they accuse of betraying truth and justice in the country in connection with the latest developments.

The officers note the diplomat's position regarding the case of the Jesuit priests; how he failed to denounce a colonel who accidentally discovered the culprits and how, lately, he has warned the High Command about some information that was going to be made public by a U.S. network.

The letter, which was released during the last few hours and is dated 1 May, expresses the young Army officers support for Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, after the Defense Ministry, with the blessing of several commanders, decided to take the current president of CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Committee] to task publicly. In their letter, the officers state that they agree completely with the former military commander regarding which senior officers give orders to junior officers.

We are obedient and nonconfrontational and that is why we continue to obey orders from superiors, but this must stop when the violation of principles and rights are involved, says the call from the young officers to the president and High Command.

The extensive document delivered to the media by the self-styled Domingo Monterrosa Lives Movement says that two of the officers it mentions were removed from their posts in the military order of 30 April. The young officers provide no further details but make some allusions to missions conducted while they did their duties.

The document says that some of the senior officers who are obtaining money illegally must stop. It also mentions the names of former military officers who are now living and enjoying their wealth in exile. The document says that the contradiction raised by the above is the luck of some gentlemen officers who, at the end of their service, live abroad and enjoy their positions without any question. It asks how some former officers are able to live so well when we know they graduated from our military alma mater.

The case of the Jesuit priests is also examined in their letter. They note that the identity of the culprits became known shortly after the murder, but some of the senior officers withheld important information from the president of the Republic and Armed Forces commander in chief. A few hours after the murder, many of us suspected what had happened. We, the young officers, have the best sources of information and many of us did not think that the case would have any major impact because the activism of the priests with the Farabundo Marti National Front [FMLN] was well-known. However, there was cause for concern almost immediately after the crime became known. The priests' murder was described as irrational and senseless because open fighting against terrorism is one thing and the struggle against the ideologists is another.

The attorney general of the Republic made up the story about the FMLN hatching a plot to murder the San Salvador bishops in an attempt to distract attention from the killing of the priests, the letter says. The attorney general could not be reached for comment about this. As stated by the young officers, when the attorney general's idea was raised, it was pointed out that it would not be credible. This was treated as a childish and illogical way out. The gross lie made up by the attorney general was never considered a practical option, the document says.

The self-styled Domingo Monterrosa Lives Movement has sent the letter to President Alfredo Cristiani, the assembly, and the Armed Forces High Command, asking them to measure the consequences of the position assumed by the U.S. Embassy and various sectors of the country regarding military aid. The young officers have taken the name of the charismatic officer who died when his helicopter was attacked while flying over the area of Cacaopera, in the northern part of the country's eastern region.

In their extensive document the young officers ask President Cristiani not to be deceived by reports from the High Command members of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy].

Armed Forces Reject Document

PA0405041690 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0308 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The Armed Forces High Command has strongly refuted the alleged remarks made by junior officers, which the High Command considers a type of gray propaganda. The Armed Forces also said in a communique that no person or group has claimed responsibility for publication of the document with the remarks, which represents propaganda that favors the FMLN.

The military communique asserted that the Armed Forces are aware of their high professionalism, ethics, and institutional philosophy as demanded by the Constitution.

Rebels Report 185 Armed Forces Casualties

PA0305202290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] San Salvador, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)—Guerrilla groups have reported 185 Salvadoran Armed Forces casualties during clashes which occurred in the last few hours in six of the country's 14 departments, but the Army claims that it only sustained 48 casualties in those clashes.

According to Radio Farabundo Marti, a radio station of the guerrilla group, the casualties were sustained by the Armed Forces in clashes which occurred on 1 and 2 May and early this morning when several ambushes, attacks, and sabotage aimed at the economy were carried out in several places throughout the country.

Radio Farabundo Marti has reported that the military actions, the largest since the rebel offensive in November

1989, which resulted in thousands of casualties, is part of the "With the Workers and For Democracy" military campaign.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which does not give details on its casualties, has said that the Armed Forces sustained 30 casualties in Ilobasco, Cabanas Department, located approximately 55 km from San Salvador.

Nevertheless, according to military reports issued eight hours after the clashes in that town, the Armed Forces killed 11 guerrilla members and sustained six casualties.

Radio Farabundo Marti has also reported that the guerrila forces caused 28 Army casualties in clashes on 2 May in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department, located approximately 90 km north of San Salvador.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) admitted that the government troops sustained 11 casualties in these clashes, adding that they inflicted three casualties on the rebels. Coprefa also reported that 26 houses were damaged.

Coprefa also reports that military actions have occurred in Cabanas, La Libertad, Chalatenango, Santa Ana, La Libertad, and San Salvador Departments during the past two days. In some places the electrical systems were sabotaged, causing long blackouts.

The guerrilla forces' general command issued a communique in San Salvador on 2 May, stating that the military actions are in response to "the triumphant and arrogant attitude of the government and the military, for the FMLN's alleged weakness, which precludes the negotiation process."

The communique reasserts their willingness to continue the negotiation process with the government to end a war which has lasted more than a decade. The negotiation process is being undertaken with the mediation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Perez de Cuellar's special envoy, Alvaro de Soto, arrived in San Salvador on 2 May as part of the negotiations. He met with President Alfredo Cristiani and the National Dialogue Commission today, and later he will meet with other leaders.

Guillermo Ungo, secretary general of the social democratic National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), told ACAN-EFE that opposition leaders could "possibly" meet with FMLN delegates in Mexico City to learn their views concerning the negotiations.

"The meeting will have an open agenda so that everyone's position can be heard and so that the role of the political parties in the negotiations can be determined," Ungo said.

Guerrillas Damage 2 Helicopters in San Miguel

PA0405053390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] San Salvador, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)—A pilot was wounded today and two Salvadoran Army helicopters were damaged when guerrillas attacked the Salvadoran aircraft in the eastern region, a military source has reported.

The source told ACAN-EFE that the pilot, who was not identified, was wounded while on a "routine" air patrol of the outskirts of San Miguel, about 140 km from the Salvadoran capital.

The military spokesperson said that the attack against the aircraft took place while it was overflying the region of La Trinidad in the eastern part of San Miguel searching for guerrilla redoubts.

This attack is added to a series of military actions launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) since 1 May, which have affected 6 of the 14 departments of the country.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that the guerrilla military actions left 48 casualties on both sides.

* FMLN Commander on Dialogue, Elections

90P40025A West Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 3 Apr 90 p 9

[Article by Ralf Leonhard, based on an interview with FMLN Commander Gustavo Amaya in late March in Perquin, Morazan Province]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador is setting high hopes on the upcoming dialogue with the government which is to take place on Wednesday in Geneva with the participation of the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. However, if the government does not make political concessions, a new offensive is inevitable. Guerrilla leader Gustavo Amaya expressed this view in an interview with DIE TAGESZEITUNG in late March in the mountains of Morazan Province. Less than 20 km from the nearest Army post, the guerrillas move with complete security in the town of Perquin.

Amaya, a former agronomy student, is wearing a Batman T-shirt under his uniform. He speaks as a representative of Commander Jonas, the military commander of the eastern front. The FMLN is worried about right-wing extremists who would regain territory, says Amaya. "There are groups in the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance Party (ARENA) and in the Army who want to try to win a military victory over the FMLN. If the negotiation process which has just begun does not make headway due to the inflexibility of certain people, then

few alternatives remain...." Amaya hopes, however, that a repeat of the violent November offensive can be avoided.

As a result of the dialogue with the government, the FMLN hopes for a gradual de-escalation of the war "to the point where we can become a political party and take part in elections." After the government and the FMLN, with the mediation of the United Nations, have made good will gestures, the way will be open for a new round of talks. The FMLN commanders, leaders of the political opposition, and President Cristiani would meet, in turn, with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez who would play an intermediary role as he did 11 years ago in Nicaragua.

Gustava Amaya can not predict exactly when the time will come for giving up weapons: "That depends upon the agreement and its implementation. You can't end the war overnight." The armed struggle will lose its justification only when its causes have been eliminated. Clean and free elections along the lines of the Nicaraguan model would be a prerequisite in any case. During the negotiations in Geneva, the FMLN will renew demands that the Army be purged, that reforms to the corrupt justice system and electoral laws be agreed upon, and that agrarian reform be pushed foward. For the FMLN it remains indisputable that the November offensive created the conditions for a dialogue which has the possibility of success. "Within the country and abroad, there was previously a complete lack of interest in resolving the conflict, according to Gustavo Amaya, who himself took part in the fighting in San Miguel. The number of victims killed in the conflict, especially from the civilian population—about 1,000 civilians were killed, another 3,000 to 4,000 wounded—had to be accepted. "The most important result is that the United States has seen that everything it has done here for the past 10 years has failed: the professionalization of the Armed Forces, and its reform program which was aimed at defeating the FMLN. Now there are suddenly people in Congress who want to cut off military assistance to Cristiani."

Although the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua was a hard blow to the FMLN's morale, it will have no effect on FMLN logistics, according to Amaya: "We have our secret supply network which also operates in hostile territory." One has to see the positive aspects of the developments in Nicaragua: "The Sandinistas have proved that the new vanguard can be trusted. The FMLN will also radiate this credibility," hopes Gustavo Amayo.

Guatemala

MLN Candidate's Campaign Headquarters Attacked

PA0305211890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1834 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)—Olga de Ayau, wife of Manuel Ayau, Guatemalan presidential candidate for the right-wing National Liberation Movement (MLN), was unhurt today following an attack on her husband's electoral campaign headquarters.

Public Affairs Officer Carlos Lesca told ACAN-EFE that at about 1700 GMT unidentified men hurled a grenade at the residence where about 15 people were gathered, among whom were Ayau's wife and presidential campaign coordinators.

The MLN presidential candidate had left the premises just minutes earlier.

Lesca added that the explosion made a hole in the building, which is located in a residential area of the capital. Several windows were broken, but there were no personal injuries.

Lesca said that they do not know the identity of the attackers, but with these actions "they are not going to intimidate us, and we will continue forging ahead."

This is the second attack in less than six months against installations of MLN leaders. In November, an explosive device was thrown at the main party headquarters, without causing any personal losses.

Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the main political organization leader, condemned the attack against Manuel Ayau's campaign headquarters.

URNG Communique on Country's Situation

PA0405022290 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 May 90 (Supplement) p 11

[Paid adverstisement: Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) "communique"; date and place not given]

[Text] The URNG General Command hereby expresses great concern over the disastrous economic, political, and social situation that has disturbed every class of the Guatemalan people.

This situation can be called the greatest crisis in our history. Everyday the local and foreign press reports on increased repression, social decay, and the high cost of living.

This is happening now that national and foreign opinion are expressing hope that the talks between the URNG and the government and Army will find a political solution to the armed conflict that was forced on the Guatemalan people several decades ago.

In light of these events and conditions, the URNG General Command declares the following to the people:

The over-all crisis that affects Guatemala has reached such a state of political insecurity that the danger of a coup d'etat is a real possibility in light of the country's social chaos.

Economic collapse is predicted as a result of the abuses the government is committing. International banking organizations have even cut off the government's credit.

Over the past few weeks, the prices of fuel, electrical energy, and cooking gas has increased, and controls on staples were rescinded to create untold suffering on the people's already chastised economy.

The quetzal's unbridled devaluation continues, creating speculation and a black market that makes a few officials, politicians, and military commanders rich overnight. The other side of the coin shows the people's acute misery and generalized poverty, and their despair at seeing no possible way out of these conditions.

Business sectors condemn this situation, which entails unnecessary government spending, promotes corruption and drug trafficking, and worsens the economic recession.

The General Command reaffirms its trust that Guatemalans will continue to struggle, despite terrorism, with exemplary determination and bravery, for their legitimate demands.

2. [number as published] The URNG General Command has shown great flexibility in its dialogue proposals to the government and the Army to seek a political solution to the armed conflict created by the injustice and imbalances being experienced by the people. This flexibility has been well acknowledged locally and abroad.

On 7 April the URNG published a document warning about the manipulation and distortion that unscrupulous sectors are trying to assign the agreement signed in Oslo.

Slanderous and whimsical interpretations have been spread, presenting the URNG as seeking political gain through these talks, without reaching a true solution to the national problem. The URNG General Command energetically denies these distortions.

3. The Oslo agreement states that dialogue "is essential to achieve reconciliation among Guatemalans and to 'resolve national problems'." The URNG General Command has constantly stressed in its documents, and still declares as a matter of principle, that the political solution to the armed conflict is not beyond the country's social conditions, and that no satisfactory solution can be found unless conditions are established to tackle justly and responsibly the social and economic problems that have beset our country.

4. The URNG General Command believes that several social, political, and economic sectors who have expressed satisfaction with the Oslo agreement should also apply this mentality of dialogue and conciliation in dealing with labor conflicts at all levels, be they government or private, so that at the same time that we find political solutions to the armed conflict, we may find solutions to social conflicts.

5. By signing the Oslo agreements, the URNG proved its sense of historical responsibility, its broadmindedness, and its vision of the future. We are willing to comply with the agreement. However, this in no way means weakness, lack of perspective, desperation, or lack of interest in the problems faced by the country and people which we have been defending for the past three decades.

6. We hope that all the political forces with which we will shortly meet will act with honesty and goodwill. We hope, that above all, they will bear in mind our country's progress and development, true democracy, and social justice, laying aside partisan, transitory, or personal interests.

Commander Rolando Mora, Commander Pablo Mosnato, Commander Gaspar Ilom, Secretary General Carlos Gonzalez

Nicaragua

Government Ministry Foils 'Terrorist' Plan

PA0305163290 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Sandinist police have foiled a terrorrist plan to attack public figures in this country. We have a report that the Sandinist police, that is, the Government Ministry, have discovered subversives who intended to create problems in our country for the new government and parties.

At 1500 this afternoon, Commander Rene Vivas of the Government Ministry will give details on this subversive plan. Commander Rivas will talk to the media about this sinister subversive plan at the (Confino Runfo) or the Sol Plaza. He will present those who were apparently captured and planning to disrupt order in Nicaragua. The subversives wanted to cause problems and anguish in our country.

Daniel Ortega Holds 3 May News Conference

PA0305234290 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1848 GMT 3 May 90

[News conference by former President Daniel Ortega with local and foreign reporters at the Sandinist Youth House in Managua—live]

[Text] [Ortega] Good morning, good morning, Nicaraguan brothers. Good morning, local and foreign reporters. We are expecting the arrival this afternoon... [Unidentified man, interrupting: "We cannot hear you."] This afternoon we are expecting the arrival of a delegation of those who call themselves the National Resistance [RN], headed by Mr. Israel Galeano, who is also known as Franklin. This delegation from the counterrevolution or RN—they are the same thing—will arrive this afternoon and will hold a meeting with the Nicaraguan Government tomorrow.

I want to express the Sandinist Front's position concerning these talks. First, I want to state that the Sandinist Front expects these talks to end with the immediate implementation of the agreement signed on 16 April. In that agreement, they committed themselves to a disarmament that was to begin on the afternoon of 25 April and be finished by 10 June, at the latest. The agreement has not been implemented as is clear, because since the afternoon of 25 April up to this date, 3 May, disarmament has not occurred. Thus, eight, almost nine days have gone by and implementation of the agreement has not yet begun. So, as the political leader of the main political force, in the name of the Nicaraguan people who voted for the Sandinist Front on 25 February, and sharing, I am sure, the desire of most Nicaraguans who voted for other political forces on 25 February, I want to stress the importance for all Nicaragua that the talks to take place tomorrow result in the immediate implementation of the agreement and not in the signing of a new agreement. These talks are not to reach a new agreement, because the agreement was already signed on 19 April. These talks are to implement the agreement that should have started on the afternoon of 25 April.

This agreement has been violated from the very moment it was to be implemented and this is cause for concern. First, there are the peasants who are in the war zone, a peasant population identified with the process of change that has been implemented in Nicaragua since 19 July. This peasant population has been the victim of this war, this conflict. This same peasant population, when it is asked to disarm, logically does not agree, because it asks why they should disarm if the contras are not being disarmed.

If we are concerned that there are armed civilians, because there are people who show that concern, there should be even more concern shown for the fact that the contras have not yet disarmed. Tomorrow the leaders of the self-styled Nicaraguan Resistance will have an opportunity to make a substantial and real contribution to peace in Nicaragua. Before anything, considering your security, I want to say that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] guarantees that at no time will it promote a climate of revenge, a policy of settling accounts using the agreement for disarmament and demobilization.

It is true that there has been much bloodshed and pain among the Nicaraguan people. The peasant population has suffered much in the war zones. The Nicaraguan family along the Pacific Coast has also suffered much. Many youths have fallen in the battle zones. They were mobilized from the Pacific to the war zones. The FSLN has demonstrated that it is generous with regard to victory. The disarmament of the contras unquestionably will be a victory for all the Nicaraguan people, a victory that was defended by the Sandinist Front. We cannot conceive, and no one should think, that after the contras disarm, the FSLN will try to take vengeance on the peasant population, who have been victims of the war, or that the FSLN will try to seek vengeance. On the contrary, we will make every political effort, which I want to stress, for the FSLN and the FSLN Directorate to commit themselves to make every political effort, particularly in the war zones where the disarmament occurs, so that there will not be any act of vengeance or any act to seek revenge, but rather the promotion of real national reconciliation among the peasant population. On occasions when I have visited the war zones I have learned of sorrowful cases and have found families who are divided. A mother was pleading for a son who was imprisoned for being a counterrevolutionary. At the same time another mother reminded me that she had a son who had been killed by the counterrevolution. In other words, the policy of death imposed on us by the United States really created division among the Nicaraguan family, first of all among the peasant population. We have many cases, hundreds of cases, of peasant families who are divided, part on the contra side, part defending the revolution. We have peasant families divided, part on the contra side, part who have family members as permanent members of the Sandinist People's Army, the army of the nation.

Thus, first I want to appeal to the leaders of the so-called National Resistance—who are to arrive in Managua this afternoon and meet with the government tomorrow—so that they contribute toward peace immediately by complying with the 19 April agreement and proceeding to disarm.

This action is not going to be interpreted by anyone as an obligation or a surrender. The Sandinists do not interpret disarmament in this manner and people should not either. We have to understand and value it as a contribution by Nicaraguans who have been involved in these activities toward the peace that is demanded by all Nicaraguans; it is to be valued as a victory for peace. I will do everything in my power as a Sandinist leader and especially [words indistinct] of war, to ensure that acts of vengeance or arrogance do not occur when disarmament takes place and to further a true reconciliation process.

We understand that the peasant population who were involved in counterrevolutionary activities require resources and work to be able to survive. However, we also believe that the peasant population, who defended Nicaragua and the revolution and were affected by counterrevolutionary activities, require resources and work, as well. Cooperatives and individual production units have been destroyed, and [word indistinct] have been captured by the same forces who signed the disarmament agreement on 19 April 1990. Thus, since I totally agree, and since the Sandinists agree to give members of the so-called National Resistance who disarm material support so that they can work and join the country's productive, social, and economic life, we must equally appeal for substantial economic and social support to be given to the peasant population in war areas who have been the victims. This support must be given to those who, even in the past few days, have been victims of abuses committed by some contra units, who have not respected the agreements and have taken several cooperatives, looted them, and even launched minor attacks.

However, assessing the global situation and valuing that this agreement represents an advance, Sandinists believe that there are favorable conditions for disarmament and that no elements exist—except for extremist elements who are clearly identified—who want the war to continue. All the Nicaraguan people want peace to be attained and disarmament to become a reality immediately.

In the future, when those talks take place, we hope to share the opposition with the Nicaraguan people. Regardless of which political party a Nicaraguan may belong to, regardless of his ideological position or his religious belief, we coincide with the majority of the Nicaraguans, with 99 percent of Nicaraguans, who believe that it is time for the contras to disarm as agreed. It is time to no longer permit more violations to those agreements; it is time to demand from the contra delegation a contribution toward peace.

We Nicaraguans want to celebrate, as soon as possible, what the contras' disarmament would be—a victory for all Nicaraguans. Those who will disarm themselves should not feel defeated. On the contrary, they should feel that they are contributing toward making peace a reality in Nicaragua. If all this contributes to peace, from any position, undoubtedly it must be recognized.

I must repeat also that it cannot be an excuse, and should not be used as an excuse to say that they feel that their lives will be in danger once they lay down their weapons. The government undoubtedly has a responsibility in that regard, as it must protect the lives of all citizens. Logically, after their disarmament, the Army as an instrument of the state, the government, and the nation must also protect their lives.

The FSLN, as a party, as the country's main and largest party, is willing and will do everything possible to prevent revenge, vengeance, and vendettas in the war zones at the time of disarmament. This must be completely clear. The FSLN commits itself to this, to contributing once again in this struggle for peace the Nicaraguan people have been waging for more than 10 years.

This is what I wanted to say today, 3 May, on the eve of the meeting that will be held tomorrow between a delegation of the self-styled Nicaraguan Resistance and the Nicaraguan Government. This meeting will result in the contra disarmament, compliance with the agreements, and no more violations of the agreements, so that Nicaraguans will not have to face again a situation of war, confrontation, and total instability.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] $3 million (?by) the government. Former officials in your administration have said, however, that the figure is $130 million. Why this difference, $130 million and $3 million? What is the true figure?

[Ortega] The truth is there in plain sight: $130 million is the amount left. The president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua, who is always designing and applying an economic policy in disagreement with the economic logic we had been applying in my government, is trying to justify in the eyes of Mrs. Chamorro his policy's disastrous effects on the population with this type of pretext. Even supposing that not a single penny was left, much less $3 million, did he not say in his electoral campaign that we Sandinists were a disaster, that we had caused the country to go bankrupt? They were not supposed to have discovered the obvious on 26 April. Taking for granted that the economy was a disaster and that our economic policy was poor, they said they would resolve the economic problems in 100 days. Consequently, there is no way for this kind of argument to carry any weight. Even less when this kind of argument is being used to conceal an incorrect, unpopular policy designed to reduce the fiscal deficit, but at the cost of the workers' standard of living and social achievements.

[Reporter] What do you think of the idea of the arms in the hands of peasants being handed over at the same time the contras hand their arms over, that is, prior to 10 June?

[Ortega] We have supported the agreements and their compliance. The Army, with ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America], has already started to seek ways for the peasants who surround the area where the contras were to gather to be disarmed. In this area, which has been one of war, there are no peripheral points. This area is supposed to be neutral, without any armed people in it. Now what happens? The peasant population, noticing that the contras are gathering in these areas and moving away from their usual places, have begun to hand over their rifles. ONUCA must also guarantee that the contras will not act against the peasant population. However, where the contras have moved, not to surrender, but to conceal their operational forces and threaten the peasants, a unique situation has been created. In these areas, the peasants have said that they are unwilling to disarm as long as the contras are not disarmed, because the peasants feel threatened. This point must be taken into consideration. It would be absurd for a peasant, who is threatened by the contras, to agree to disarm while others remain armed. The contras were supposed to have started to disarm on the afternoon of 25 April.

It is important that we are totally convinced that the contras should be disarmed. Once the contras are disarmed, there will be no more reason for the peasant population to remain armed.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, Commander Ruben of the Nicaraguan Resistance, signed the accords. Barely one week later, on the afternoon of 25 April, he and Commander Franklin denied the accords and said they would not demobilize. When Ruben signed the accords, however, he was asked specifically: On what conditions did you tell the new government that you would disarm? He said clearly: No condition. Unconditionally. How do you now interpret the fact that apparently conditions have been presented to the new government? Why did they sign the accords and then back down. Why?

[Ortega] In this regard, I have been thinking especially about the attitude of extremist groups entrenched in what was known as the National Opposition Unity [UNO]. Those extremist groups try to use the contras as an instrument of negotiation to satisfy their personal and political ambitions. They do not care much about the fact that the peasants who are involved with the contras are enduring difficulties and may die, because when you are waging a war you can obviously die. Those who have extremist positions are not exposed to the war; they are not risking their lives. I am also certain that those who have encouraged such positions are extremist sectors from the U.S. Administration who do not want to openly face this matter. They are using contra groups from UNO to encourage positions that attempt to weaken the accords between the government and the FSLN and then the agreements, through which the contras decided to disarm with no conditions other than conditions to work, and social conditions for those who lay down their weapons. In other words, economic and social protection for those who lay down their weapons.

Therefore, I believe those are the forces that have been exerting pressure, which at a certain time have had an effect on some contra leaders. In sum, those who are truly amid the most complex conditions—those directly in the field—are the contras and not those UNO extremist groups or the extremist sectors in the U.S. Administration.

[Reporter] Why are the various extremist sectors of the U.S. Administration exerting pressure so that the contras do not lay down their weapons? What is their purpose?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] the FSLN continues to be the main political force in Nicaragua and continues to be an option for government, for power in this country. Therefore, those sectors want to end up with the FSLN. In the same manner, some extremist sectors in UNO would like to end with the entire [words indistinct] Sandinist. However, that is obviously foolish and simply goes against the will of the Nicaraguan people, who want peace, stability, and respect for the agreements that have been signed.

[Reporter] Along the same line, the fact that [Commander] Franklin did not participate in the so-called Toncontin agreements and did not sign the document, and later on, did not come to Nicaragua and said he would not lay down the weapons, is this not the beginning of the U.S. Administration game with Franklin, who is coming [to Nicaragua] today to hold talks with the new government?

[Ortega] What has to be considered at this time is that Franklin, as well as other contra leaders, have a responsibility; if they are going to wage war again, it would be like sending them [the contras] to extermination. It would be most advisable to follow the path of peace, regardless of the pressure the U.S. Administration and extremist UNO sectors—also encouraged by the U.S. Administration—may have exerted at a specific moment even more vigorously. Some media are also being used as instruments for this vengeful policy of war.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] electoral, now that the transfer [of power] has been completed. What is the level of internal debate in the FSLN. In other words, will there be a change in policy, will there be changes in the leadership? Also, over the past 15 days, there has been the impression that the FSLN was having problems controlling its rank and file so that they did not leave traces of their actions? What is the meaning of this? Is this evidence of the constructive opposition you talked about with regard to the new government? Thank you.

[Ortega] The main task of the Sandinists at this time is to accomplish the demobilization of the contras. In other words, to contribute toward the process of demobilization of the contras. That is our main task. This does not mean that we are not taking the necessary steps to adapt the FSLN to this new stage. We made this decision before the elections. However, a restructuring of the FSLN in this new stage obviously requires the disarmament of the contras. We cannot be restructuring our forces and taking them apart..... [changes thought] Moreover, it is necessary to call the attention of those who may be trying to promote this because they want to have the contras—without being disarmed—to face a dismantled FSLN. That would be highly dangerous. Therefore, the FSLN is completely united in ideological and political terms. Obviously, the immediate task is the disarmament of the contras, and not internal FSLN restructuring. Of course, at the same time we are taking practical steps to readjust or readapt our forces to the new circumstances. This is progressing.

The matter of the strikes is a problem that is determined by the social and economic situation. Obviously, before 25 April the strikes were caused by an instability throughout broad sectors of the population, an instability which was generated by the threat inherent in the agreements that had been signed on 27 March and 19 April.

However, 25 April is gone, and now we are concentrating our efforts on demobilizing the contras; in other words, the national mobilization to accomplish the demobilization of the contras. We should have said before that a strike is not an instrument to be used hastily, because it causes a deterioration in the economic capacity of the enterprise in which it takes place. In sum, a strike affects the workers. Workers' actions should not necessarily be through strikes. Strikes are simply another instrument of struggle.

If the workers must protest—and we must support them in their just demands—their actions at this time are determined by the economic measures that the Central Bank president has taken by violently changing the parallel and official foreign exchange rates, and by raising the prices without adjusting the salaries correspondingly or establishing a credit policy to guarantee credits for small and medium peasant producers, who are breaking the [word indistinct].

This is very dangerous. It is a destabilizing economic measure that does not contribute at all to generate confidence, and which logically will result in the workers' protest. However, this does not mean that the workers' position must necessarily be to go on strike. Workers have many forms of protest and struggle. We will support the workers and will be at the workers' vanguard in defending any just action, in what we have called a belligerent but constructive opposition. Thank you.

RN Leaders Arrive To Discuss Demobilization

PA0305224390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Managua, 3 May (ACAN-EFE)—Israel Galeano, foremost leader of the Nicaraguan contras known as "Commander Franklin," arrived here today at the head of a large delegation of leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] to negotiate with the government of Violeta Chamorro the conditions for their demobilization.

Upon arrival from the northern Nicaraguan mountains to a hotel in the Nicaraguan capital, the "contra" leader, wearing a guerrilla uniform but unarmed, said: "To be in Managua means being able to do something for peace."

"Franklin" arrived at 1450 (2050 GMT) in Managua, accompanied by Spanish Commander Jose Luis Gracia and other officers of the UN Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA), four commanders of the RN General Staff, and 15 RN leaders.

Radio Claims Food Aid Comes From CIA Branch

PA0405142290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The food aid which the U.S. Government will send to Nicaragua within the next few months has been conditioned to the privatization of state-run enterprises and the elimination of state monopolies and controls over farm production.

The shipment of corn, lard and vegetable oil, worth $12.3 million, will be made through AID [Agency for International Development], an economic branch of the CIA. According to the agreement, the food will be sold through local processing plants and the profits will be used in the government's privatization effort. In other words, this is the principle and price the United States has imposed on President Barrios [sentence as heard].

The U.S. Charge d'Affairs (George Leonard), Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus, and Francisco Mayorga attended the onerous ceremony, which crushed the nation's interests. Not even the national anthem could be heard during the ceremony because of equipment failure. Could it be that the equipment felt the shame not felt by the officials of the current government who, instead, proudly welcomed the rules imposed by the Yankee government?

Pro-Government Workers, Sandinists Clash 1 May

PA0405011090 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 2 May 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Pro-government worker federations marched to celebrate International Workers Day. During these events, fervent speeches were given and minor incidents [words indistinct]. The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] started its march in front of Ciudad Jardin's theater at approximately 1000. Four unions—PGT [not further identified], CAUS [Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity], CUTN [Single Central of Nicaraguan Workers], and Authentic CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation]—managed to assemble approximately 2,000 persons, although it was announced yesterday that they would gather 80,000. The main speakers were Alejandro Solorzano, Antonio Jarquin, Roberto Moreno, and (?Alvin Guty). Antonio Jarquin asked the counterrevolution to disarm itself and demanded the same from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

[Jarquin]*Workers call on Nicaraguan Resistance to demobilize, but we also demand that the National Salvation Government not only ask Humberto Ortega to demobilize the Sandinist mobs and the EPS, but order him to do so. We do not want an armed force.*

Visibly disappointed, Dr. Myriam Arguella and a few U.S. Embassy officials decided to leave the small march. In the Monsignor Lezcano neighborhood, the Carlos Huembes' CTN managed to gather about 3,000 followers, most of them brought in from Chinandega and Tipitapa. The march was proceeding normally when CST [Jose Benito Escobar Sandinist Central Organization of Workers] members, returning from their march, met with the CTN workers. Unfortunately, what started as a confrontation of slogans, ended with sporadic clashes and rock throwing between both groups.

[shouts and noises by workers at the march]

[Unidentified women]*They are attacking us with sticks and throwing stones at us. [more shouts and noises]*

The Police Corps' quick and effective action stopped the incidents from getting out of hand and becoming more serious. However, Adan Fletes, a Social Christian leader, who followed the march at a prudent distance, said the police were to blame for what had occurred.

[Fletes]*We are going to have problems here, and the responsibility for it will fall exclusively on the police corps. On other occasions, when they have wanted to avoid this type of problems, they have done so quite easily. An example is the electoral process itself. Today, they do not want to avoid the violence. If they really want to, they should prove it now. The officer who commands these patrols is responsible for whatever happens here because of the attacks of the Sandinist mobs.*

Commander Christian Monguia, who was present during the incidents, said that the CTN leader had never informed the police about this march, but the police had protected it anyway. He also highlighted the role played by public order agents to control the violence.

[Monguia]*We were informed today, through the media, that the CTN was holding a march and that its route would be in the Monsignor Lezcano sector. Initially, the Sandinist Front had requested authorization for a march to be held in this area, but later they requested the march with two alternative routes—one toward the Mausoleum sector and the other toward the Monsignor Lezcano sector. Both routes were authorized for the FSLN's march. Nevertheless, even though the CTN's march had not been authorized because no request for it had been made, we proceeded to protect it in the same manner we protect any other demonstration. Our actions were limited to protecting the marchers from possible attackers and also to preventing events from getting out of hand and yielding greater consequences. We have to report only one wounded person so far; he was hit in the head by a stone. If I am not mistaken, his name is Pablo Lopez Paramo. We do not have any further reports of damage. There was a report that possibly the window of a bus that came from one of the regions was broken, but this report is still unconfirmed. Our attitude, at all times, has been geared toward ensuring the normal development of the workers' march.*

Labor Leader on Sandinist Attack

PA0405024690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 May 90

[Report on interview with Agustin Rodriguez, secretary general of the Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers (CTN), by unidentified reporter in Managua on 2 May—recorded]

[Text] CTN Secretary General Agustin Rodriguez has denied statements by Police Chief Christian Munguia, who said that the CTN did not have permission to march on 1 May.

Rodriguez said that Carlos Bendana authorized the march, which had serious problems after being attacked by Sandinist mobs. Let us now listen to Agustin Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] First, I want to tell you that on 28 April a police delegation from the Military Zone 2 came to request that we give them the route of the march, which we did. Later, on 30 April at 1600, Companero Carlos Huembes and I met here with Deputy Police Commander Carlos Bendana, to whom we delivered the route of the march. Thus, he in effect gave us his permission to hold the march.

However, I do not know why Mr. Munguia is now saying that we did not have permission to march. We had permission from the authorities. The police were patrolling the streets since the early morning hours on 1 May. They came to the CTN to preserve order and lead us through the route of the march. I do not know why they are....excuse me, is this man saying that we did not have the corresponding permission? We have copies of the permit and can bring it and show it at any time.

[Reporter] What is your version of the 1 May incidents?

[Rodriguez] We were peacefully marching just as the events programmed by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] had concluded at 0930. Moreover, I do not know why the police allowed the Sandinists to remain at street intersections in the Monsignor Lezcano neighborhood. As we were passing by, they started to hurl stones at us, which resulted in two Managua professors being injured. One of the professors was seriously injured and he was taken to the Lenin Fonseca Hospital.

However, as usual, the police arrived a little late, thus allowing divine mobs of the FSLN to attack the peaceful march that had been organized by the CTN.

[Reporter] What was the reason for the 1 May attack by the mobs?

[Rodriguez] The attack resulted from the total deterioration of the FSLN. This shows the weakness of the FSLN, which no longer has an important role to play in this country. Moreover, the FSLN is dispatching the mobs to try to show and impress public opinion that they still have followers. I think they lost their power on 25 February. [end recording]

Panama

Endara on Public Force, Justice, Civilian Rule

PA0405025790 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 May 90 p 2A

[Interview with President Guillermo Endara by Betty Brannan Jaen in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [Brannan] Mr. President, Panama is ablaze with criticism because you said that there is no army in Panama, yet the National Police's leadership is 100-percent military and its organization is strictly military. Would you like to answer the criticism that there is a difference between rhetoric and reality?

[Endara] Of course. There is no such difference. Let me tell you, the decision of the Republic of Panama, meaning government and people, is not to have an army. We will not have an army and we will not have military institutions. That leadership will be eliminated in the constitutional reforms we will make. We decided this during the early days of our administration, and we decided that we had to organize a police corps quickly. The only way to do it quickly was to use members of the extinct Panama Defense Forces.

It is true that they have military training. I confess that I have military training too. I graduated from a military school in California. The fact that one has military training does not make one a military officer. Ricardo

Arias Calderon also has military training— I believe he graduated from Valley Forge—and he is no military officer.

I have talked with Colonel Eduardo Herrera and I am convinced that, despite your information, he is now thinking like a policeman and not as a chief of police. We have eliminated from our Police and Public Force all those officers involved in crimes, torture, theft, embezzlement, and all the corruption prevailing in the old Panama Defense Forces. We have decided that we will not pounce on someone simply because someone says "that is him." If it is proved that he was involved in any of those actions, then he goes.

[Brannan] Mr. President, do you have plans to appoint a civilian as chief of the police?

[Endara] I tell you that I am the chief of police. I am the chief of police and I am a civilian. Just to let you see how these things work, I have entrusted these affairs to another civilian, meaning Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon.

[Brannan] People in Panama have criticized the fact that Msgr. McGrath was among those who said that the management of justice is taking too long. Do you have in mind a solution to what could be called the slow wheels of justice?

[Endara] I think that criticism is very unfair. Procedures could undoubtedly be modified, but I do not think this would represent a major change. I believe we should try all those people, giving them the right to be defended. If we acted like the members of the dictatorship did, then we would have solved those cases a long time ago. We do not want to abolish justice. We want to give them the rights that they denied us. This is why justice takes longer.

Justice without the right to defense is no justice. You see Noriega's case in the United States, where justice is reportedly so efficient. The trial will be delayed a year at least, or perhaps more. I am a lawyer, and I will not participate in any procedure which precludes the accused person's rights. I would rather have some guilty people set free than to condemn an innocent person.

[Brannan] Mr. President, the controversy was based on the fact that you talked about a commutation, a pardon.

[Endara] People insist on misquoting me. I never talked about pardoning a criminal, a thief, or a torturer. I never talked about pardoning someone who has seized government property. I never said this.

Now, thank God, we have a Reconciliation Commission that will calmly analyze this problem, without the political character that I undoubtedly give to all my actions because I am the president of the Republic. I would rather have them handle the issue.

[Brannan] Would you order Technical Judicial Police Inspector Loaiza to leave his post while the charges issued by Special Superior Prosecutor Miranda are investigated?

[Endara] Neither Prosecutor Miranda nor I can remove someone from his post unless it is for juridical causes. The law clearly states who is authorized to order Loaiza to leave his post and in which cases it is done. I, as president of the Republic, cannot assume functions that are not mine. I insist: We are creating a lawful state and I am a man of law. If it is found that there is enough evidence to separate Loaiza from his post, then there are legal procedures for separating him from his post. Let the appropriate official do it, because I am not that person.

Discusses Results of U.S. Visit

PA0405035690 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0047 GMT 4 May 90

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara Galimany at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City upon his return from the United States—live]

[Text] [Endara] Thank you very much for coming to the airport to meet me.

I must tell you that since Sunday [29 April] morning, when we departed, until today, we have carried out an extensive and complete agenda. In fairness, I must say that all the members of the delegation, all of whom you know, worked with me, or had separate meetings related to their respective government positions.

We began the trip with a stopover in Miami, where after Sunday mass we were received by a group of doctors and Cuban, Panamanian, and U.S. philanthropists residing in Miami, who helped us much during the days immediately after 20 December, and who continue to help us with medical equipment and supplies, and food. We also attended to representatives from various U.S. media sources.

From there we traveled to Washington on Sunday afternoon. We were welcomed by Secretary of State Baker, and we had the opportunity to meet with him and exchange views concerning topics we would discuss the following day.

The next day we attended a meeting with President Bush. That was a very productive meeting. First there was a private meeting between President Bush and myself, during which we discussed matters of mutual interests. He told me—and he repeated it on various occasions to the Panamanian delegation and the public—that he was very disturbed by the delay in sending the aid, that he knew that we Panamanians are in urgent need of the aid. I believe that President Bush was very eloquent in his statements and convincing about his feelings.

I also told him during that private meeting that the Panamanian people are very grateful for his enormous efforts to send the aid to Panama as quickly as possible. I then told him that I was sure that my next words

expressed the feelings of a great number of Panamanians, and invited him to Panama. I asked President Bush to visit us in Panama. I must say that President Bush received the invitation with great enthusiasm; however, due to his many commitments, he could not immediately accept the offer. He assured me, though, that he is very interested in coming, so I would not be surprised if he does. He even mentioned that perhaps it could be in September.

Afterward there was a meeting attended by the Panamanian delegation and President Bush's team, including his closest advisers. We discussed matters related to the aid and its immediate use. We also discussed aspects concerning the canal, which included the widening of the Gaillard Cut, and various ways in which Panamanian-U.S. relations will continue. We emphasized that Panama must prepare itself—which was not done under the dictatorship—for the year 2000, to assume the administration of the canal, which must be as efficient, even more efficient than under U.S. administration. We said that in the next 10 years, less than 10 years, that we have ahead, we must prepare the Panamanian nation and Panamanian experts to assume administration of the canal.

Later, we had a luncheon during which we continued to discuss topics of mutual interest for Panama and the United States. Later, as you know, we held a news conference that was transmitted here to Panama and you know what was said. From then until the afternoon of 1 May we held a series of meetings. These were not one meeting at a time, but many meetings at the same time. We divided the work. The education minister saw to education matters. The director of the Social Security Fund saw to matters related to medicine. Each was engrossed in his own topic.

I attended an important meeting, an important breakfast with the directors of the so-called IFIS, the International Financial Institutions. During these meetings we redefined what had been discussed on earlier occasions, on how we can get up to date with those entities, and on how those entities would immediately proceed to grant the aid which is required for Panama's development, aside from the initial phase of reconstruction. The other meetings we held were with the treasury secretary, the undersecretary of the treasury, and their team. The meeting was quite long and we discussed all the ways in which they can help us with regard to the IFIS and with regard to banking affairs.

We also held several meetings with congressmen and senators of both parties. One of the most important meetings was with the head of the Republican faction and the head of the Democrats. We discussed all the topics of interest to Panama and the United States. We also held a joint meeting with the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee in which the same topics were also broadly debated.

We also had breakfast with Vice President Quayle. The breakfast was attended by renowned congressmen and senators. The undersecretary of the treasury, who has a special interest in Panama, also attended. I must say, I forgot that in almost all of these meetings there was a principal figure and a lawyer for our cause, the U.S. ambassador to Panama, who should be here or was here to greet us. Also present at almost all the meetings were Eduardo Vallarino, the Panamanian ambassador to Washington, and Cesar Pereira Burgos, the Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations. As I said, there were many meetings. We could later specify who attended what meeting. Personally, I do not remember right now because my mind is too tired to remember each and every one of them. But it is important that you know that we met with each of the persons who have to do with every aspect of our relations.

We travelled the afternoon of 1 May to New York. We held a very important meeting there at the Chase Manhattan Bank. Then we had more of a personal meeting at the University where I studied, the University of New York, which has a big interest in Panama, in matters dealing with education. Of course we had all sorts of meetings with the press. I participated in national television programs. I had a lengthy meeting with the editors of THE NEW YORK TIMES. That was not exactly a meeting, but a conversation to compare information and to bring it up to date on the current situation in Panama.

We did the same with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and other U.S. media. This is a brief report on what happened in the United States. You already know the outcome of the mission. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have approved the economic aid. There are some minor details that will be settled during the meeting of both chambers. In a matter of days, it will be.... [changes thought] I mean, the aid has already been approved. What will be clarified will be aspects unrelated to the aid, but, rather, connected with internal U.S. policy. This is the great success of my mission, for which I thank all the companions who assisted and advised me continually during my trip. My great success was to eliminate the last obstacles in the way of our aid. The approval was nearly unanimous.

[Unidentified moderator] Dear colleagues, those of you who want to ask questions, please give your names and the media you represent.

[Sarmiento] Gustavo Sarmiento of EL PANAMA AMERICA. Mr. President, some (?things) have taken place in the city over the past few days. This morning the possibility of a Cabinet crisis was reported. Could you tell us something about this?

[Endara] There is no such cabinet crisis. I am completely confident. All of the ministers and I are sure we are all committed to the same cause. There is no cabinet crisis, not by a long shot.

[Moderator] Omaira de De Leon of RPC Radio.

[De Leon] Mr. President, Omaira De Leon of RPC Radio. During your working tour of the past few days, events have taken place that have elicited a number of rumors. One person very close to you was even killed. What have you to say on this? How do you describe it?

[Endara] The news of the death of my great friend Jose Sebastian Cubillas has caused me great sorrow. He was with me at the Nunciature on two occasions when I sought asylum there. On the second occasion, he asked me to be his godfather because he had not been baptized or confirmed. When I was sworn in, I asked him to come with me to the presidential palace. He was my personal companion. Some said he was my valet. In truth, he did not have this title, but assisted me in all of my personal business and accompanied me everywhere. A few days before I left, I told him jokingly I wanted to take him with me to Washington. Now I regret I did not speak seriously. He was a very special person, gifted with superior intelligence. He was very loyal. I know he was loved by many. I know Msgr. Sebastian Laboa must have received this news with the same sadness I did. I truly feel I have lost a friend. Although his friendship was relatively recent, I feel as though he was a lifelong friend. The incident is truly regrettable.

[Molina] Molina of [words indistinct]. Mr. President, are you satisfied with the reports you have received on these regrettable events?

[Endara] I understand the prosecutor is investigating what really happened. Of course, the explanations I received, although I feel they are satisfactory, are subject to verification by the prosecutor. May I repeat. The prosecutor will carry out the investigation. I respect his authority.

[De Leon] De Leon of Circuito RPC Television. In the exchange of ideas with these international financial aid institutions, were the Panamanian economic problems outlined? Was any specific agreement reached with these international financial institutions?

[Endara] Of course, all the....[changes thought] the breakfast, which was actually a meeting—a coffee cup was an excuse to call the meeting a breakfast—was a wide discussion of the Panamanian economic situation, of its plans, of what we plan to do with the economic aid, and of how we could come up to date with the financial institutions. Remember that the dictatorship left us a delay in the payment of capital and interests of $540 million, which we have to pay back so that we can receive new credit from these institutions. We cannot plan on long-term development without coming up to date with these institutions. It was widely discussed. I must tell you that since I am no economist, I was accompanied by well-known economists and financiers and they were the ones in charge, while I listened carefully.

[Reporter] Mr. President, on 1 May there were strong rumors of a coup d'etat against you. That is my first question. The second question is: Were you aware that the exercises were going to be conducted on that date [words indistinct]?

[Endara] As you know, a law was enacted creating the Presidential Guard from the National Police. A training system of the Presidential Guard was established. I understand that they have many [words indistinct]. I understand that the training is strong. I have attended the closing of the various training courses. They do it with great professionalism and they are improving themselves every day. I cannot tell you that I was aware that the exercises were going to be held that day, but I was not surprised to hear that they took advantage of my absence to conduct exercises.

[(Luis)] I am (Jorge Luis) from Radio Mia. What kind of future can you give to the people who supported you? Will they have the opportunity to maintain honest employment?

[Endara] In all, absolutely all the meetings I held, we said that the most serious problem faced by the Panamanian people is unemployment. The economic solution and the economic recovery has to be the result of our efforts in the fight against unemployment. We have to decrease unemployment. We have to create new jobs. All institutions, both the U.S. and the international financial institutions, were clear about this. Our plan to rebuild this country is to reduce unemployment. We have to create new jobs. All plans have this objective in mind.

[Blaisdell] Mr. President, this is Lionel Blaisdell from Radio Alegre, rather Radio Libre. Over the past few days, when you were absent, there were serious disagreements between Government and Justice Minister [Ricardo Arias Calderon] and certain government officials—I am referring to Magistrate Eusebio Marchosky and Dr. Rodrigo Miranda—to the point that the government and justice minister have asked them to act as magistrates or leave their post. What is your position on this situation?

[Endara] Full and absolute support for the minister of government and justice.

Assembly Condemns Miranda's 'Rash' Attitude

PA0405032490 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 3 May 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] Last night, the Legislative Assembly approved a resolution to "condemn the rash attitude of prosecutor Rodrigo Miranda Morales for trying to destabilize the government of President Endara, without any grounds to do so, through the media. Instead, he should responsibly conduct the investigation this Assembly appointed him to conduct as head of the Special Superior Prosecuting Office, such as the murder of Dr. Hugo Spadafora Franco."

Meanwhile, our correspondent Luis Gaitan in David contacted Miranda who said that, this morning, through

his lawyer Diogenes Arosemena, he will ask for guarantees so that his main witness, Ulises Nunez, can testify concerning the accusations he made against Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] Chief Leslie Loaiza.

Miranda said that Nunez feels "intimidated and frightened." He added that he intends to take Nunez to the Attorney General's Office so that he can render his testimony. For this reason, he asked lawyer Arosemena to ask Attorney General Rogelio Cruz for certain guarantees for the witness.

Miranda added that he does not have much information about Nunez, but that he is hiding because of threats. The proof he has, Miranda said, was supplied by U.S. intelligence officers whose names he did not disclose. Miranda said that he spoke with another U.S. official who lives in David to "authenticate" the identity of the Yankee officers who delivered a two-hour cassette with the recording of the questions that they, the Americans, had asked Nunez.

He said that it is his conclusion that this is a case of extortion against the family of former Colonel Marcos Justine Fernandez in which PTJ Chief Leslie Loaiza is seriously involved. However, Loaiza rejected these charges yesterday and filed suit against Miranda at the Attorney General's Office.

According to Miranda, Nunez is the husband of Isis, the maid who works for the Justines family. In addition, Isis' sister, Etelvina, is Loaiza's secretary. He added that in January, more than $350,000 was taken from one of the places where Xenia Guadalupe Justines de Rodriguez, Justines' daughter, had hidden money. This is where Loaiza comes into the scene, because while investigating the theft, Nunez became a suspect, because Nunez is a taxi driver and ran errands for the Justines family.

Miranda noted that Nunez was in La Colorada of Santiago, Veraguas, when Isis called him to come to the capital. After many calls, Nunez arrived in Panama City and fell into the trap and was arrested by Loaiza, who found out about an $80 million treasure while questioning the suspect.

Miranda stated: "Nunez was savagely tortured. They broke his fingers during questioning."

Referring to Justines' daughter, Miranda said that she is separated from her husband and is involved with Giancarlo Gronchi, the son of the owner of Tauro Tannery. Gronchi is a very close friend of Ciacci Tason, whose fiancee is Nunez' sister.

Miranda accused Loaiza of "hiding these facts from the people" and concluded that Tason, the son of [former Legislator] Otilio Miranda, and others involved in the kidnapping case, became desperate and resorted to kidnapping Justines' grandchild to pressure him into delivering the money, which was estimated at $80 million—$47 million that Justines took from the National Bank's vault, the rest, money from drug trafficking activities.

Miranda did not mention if part of this money had been funds from Banco Patria of the former Panama Defense Forces.

Miranda's explosive statements, which have filled the front pages of local newspapers and have become the top news stories on television, prompted a reaction from the Legislative Assembly last night. It "reiterated its confidence in the seriousness and impartiality of the president and vice presidents, as well as that of the entire Cabinet."

Vice President Arias Calderon has repeatedly noted that Miranda's remarks are irresponsible insinuations and "if he has any shame, he should resign."

Speaking from David to CRITICA LIBRE last night, Miranda said that "he has not shown any disrespect for Dr. Arias Calderon and that all he wants to tell Arias is that his feelings are reciprocal."

Miranda said that, up to last night, he had not received any message from the government minister or the attorney general. Asked if the Southern Command had denied his remarks, he said no, adding that he reaffirmed everything he said.

Nicaragua's Godoy Visits, Discusses Ortega, UNO

PA0305153090 Panama City in Spanish
2 May 90 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy said on 1 May that dictatorships are easily formed but that restoring democracy requires a major effort. Godoy made his statements shortly before returning to his country.

Godoy, who visited Panama to participate in the International Liberal Congress, said that the transition to democracy in Nicaragua will be "very complex"; however, popular support for Violeta Chamorro will make the people take the correct path toward their democratic future.

The Nicaraguan vice president admitted that Humberto Ortega's appointment as chief of the army has created displeasure among the Nicaraguan people. He said that Ortega's removal is not a simple matter and added that his presence in the armed forces will be temporary.

Godoy denied that there is division within the National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance. The vice president said that the internal differences are the result of political game playing, which will not cause a split.

Regarding the demilitarization process in Panama, Virgilio Godoy said that it is an "internal" affair that must be solved by the Panamanians. "You can count on our solidarity and understanding when you choose the lifestyle that suits you best," he said.

After stressing that he respects Violeta Chamorro's decision to keep the Sandinist military command unchanged, Godoy said that "it is not possible to begin a real democratization process in the political field with a militarized society like the one we currently have in Nicaragua."

Argentina

Air Force, U.S. Firm To Manufacture Combat Jets

PY0305144690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1900 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA)—It has been officially reported that the Air Force and an established U.S. company have signed an agreement to manufacture a special version of the Pampa plane. This move will enable the country to compete internationally and to possibly sell almost 900 planes to the United States.

The negotiations to sell the Pampa to the United States began during the previous government and became decisive during a tour by an Argentine delegation to several U.S. Air Force bases.

That delegation was headed by Air Force Brigadier Tomas Rodriguez, the current deputy Air Force commander.

The document that was signed today is an agreement with LTV Aerospace and Defense Company for the joint sale of a "North Americanized" version of the Pampa that will be called Pampa 2000.

The agreement seeks also to win an international tender that will be called by the U.S. Air Force and Naval Air Force, which will replace their fleets of advanced training planes in 1994.

By that date the Military Plane Factory and LTV Aerospace will have produced the version of the Pampa that will compete in the tender.

According to official information, the United States will purchase 890 training units (540 for the Air Force, and 350 for the Naval Air Force) in 1994 and this opens up interesting possibilities for Argentina, because building nearly 900 planes would mean a formidable industrial reactivation.

The Air Force will receive $800,000 for each of the planes that are sold. The current cost of the Pampa is approximately $4 million.

The agreement also foresees technological support by the U.S. firm to improve the production line taking into account that LTV Aerospace is the third oldest plane manufacturer in the world, with a plant that employs 11,000 people.

LTV Aerospace currently has a 33-percent participation in the manufacture of the B-2 Stealth [preceding word in English], the most technologically advanced plane in the U.S. Air Force.

The Pampa 2000 will have to compete against strong international adversaries that are also preparing for the tender.

The Italian Aeromacchi plane, the French Alfa jet, the FRG Dornier Enterprise, and the Spanish Casa are among the best known.

According to Ernesto Crespo, the former commander in chief of the Air Force, the Pampa costs less and performs better than the other planes.

The Pampa was flown satisfactorily in the United States in 1988 by very experienced pilots and high ranking Air Force officers.

Navy officers subjected the plane to hard tests including simulated landings on aircraft carriers, where the landing gear takes a bad jolt.

According to some witnesses of that test, the Argentine plane performed without any trouble.

Currently four of these planes are flying, two of them (Gato and Mancha) were the ones that flew to the United States.

The eventual sale of the Pampa plane to the United States opens the door to the NATO countries market because many of their pilots are trained in the United States.

Bomb Explodes at Peronist Leader's House

PY0305132890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1245 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] La Plata, 3 May (NA) — A medium-sized bomb exploded early this morning at the house of Peronist leader Jorge Luis Argento, in Wilde district in the southern part of greater Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires Province. The explosion caused damage but no injuries were reported.

The bomb exploded at 0200 [0500 GMT] at the house at 300 Bahia Blanca Street. The front of the house and the garage door were damaged.

Argento is a militant of the Menem faction of the Justicialist Party. In 1983, he was one of the main advisers of Herminio Iglesias, a former candidate for governor of Buenos Aires Province.

Paraguay's Rodriguez Arrives for Official Visit

PY0305130490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1250 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (TELAM) — Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez arrived at 0935 [1235 GMT] at the Metropolitan Airport, where he was met by President Carlos Menem.

The visiting chief of state arrived on board the T-02 plane, which brought him from Ezeiza International Airport. Rodriguez was met in the military sector of the airport by Menem and members of his Cabinet.

The official ceremony began after the two presidents had greeted each other and it consisted of the singing of the two national anthems and a 21-gun salute.

Bolivia

Banzer Pleased With End of Militarism in Region

PY0305223590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1141 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Bonn, 3 May (EFE)—General Hugo Banzer, Bolivian president 1971-1978, in Bonn expressed his satisfaction over the end of militarism as a system of government in Latin America.

In a news conference in this capital, Banzer, who currently is the president of the National Political Council of the Patriotic Accord which is ruling Bolivia, again said that he was the one who called elections in 1979, convinced that the country had to return to the path of democracy.

The former Bolivian president pointed out that Bolivia, and Latin America in general, now have the "great opportunity" to privatize most state-run enterprises and attract foreign investment capital.

Banzer explained that in Bolivia there are cyclic changes in the political arena virtually every 50 years and that now, after some 60 years of nationalist and revolutionary trends that led to failure and have become exhausted, the time has come for a change toward pragmatism, leaving ideologies and dogmas in the background.

A change that will represent a valid solution to the current Bolivian problems, a democratic change—either Marxist or liberal—and not as a result of war as happened in the past, Banzer emphasized.

Concerning the remarks made by President Jaime Paz Zamora, which were interpreted as a support for the possible candidacy of Hugo Banzer, the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) president, in the next Bolivian elections, Banzer said that the president's attitude in La Paz was "an honest compensation" for ADN's support for Paz Zamora to become president.

Banzer indicated that his country does not want to compromise on a rotation of parties in office, as has been the case in other countries, but that the Patriotic Accord, made up of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the ADN, and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), basically seeks "a change." Furthermore, as a disciplined member of the ADN, a party that he has been presiding over since its foundation 11 years ago, Banzer will accept running for president in case the ADN so decides.

Banzer is currently on a European tour that has taken him to several cities in the Soviet Union, Spain, and the FRG. He came to the FRG at the invitation of the Hans Seidel Foundation, which is related to the Christian Social Union (CSU) of Bavaria.

In Bonn, Banzer met with Information Minister Hans Klein [as received], Economic Cooperation Minister Juergen Warnke, and Finance Minister Theo Waigel as well as with Carl-Dieter Spranger, the secretary of state of the Federal Interior Ministry.

Armed Forces Head on Military in Antidrug Effort

PY0405024490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The military high command went to the Government Palace this afternoon to meet with the chief of state, Jaime Paz Zamora. Following the meeting, General Jorge Moreira, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said that the Special Forces are carrying out the struggle against drug trafficking without problems. However, if these forces are overwhelmed the Armed Forces would no doubt join in the struggle, he said.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Moreira] ... aware that the Special Antinarcotics Forces are carrying out their pertinent task in this regard.

According to the Constitution, we support this position, that is, in case those forces are overwhelmed, then I believe that intervention by the armed institutions would have to be considered. It is stated ...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Question indistinct]?

[Moreira] No, not at this moment. I believe there is absolutely nothing.

Well now, concerning the militarization issue, I want to say that the entire Armed Forces would have to join the struggle. However, that is, in case they participate, it would have to be minimal or insignificant participation by the Armed Forces institutions.

[Reporter] General, the COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation], however, has denounced that a sort of militarization has already begun with the presence of Regiment [words indistinct].

[Moreira] No, I believe it is a ... [changes thought] We gave the proper explanations at the proper time. They are routine tasks carried out by the 7th Army Division because its jurisdiction includes the Yapacani bridge area. [end recording]

World Bank Approves $20 Million Development Loan

PY0305161290 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Apr 90 p 3

[Summary] World Bank Director Mario Mercado Vaca Guzman yesterday told EL DIARIO that the World Bank has officially approved a $20 million loan to finance the Social Investment Fund development programs.

Paz Invited To Attend OAS Assembly in Asuncion

PY0405030090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 90

[Excerpt] The Paraguayan ambassador to our country went to the office of President Jaime Paz Zamora to deliver a personal letter from Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez, inviting the Bolivian chief of state to attend the opening of the 20th assembly of the OAS.

The Paraguayan ambassador said that President Paz accepted the invitation to be in Asuncion on 4 June. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Debt Conversion Pact Signed With U.S. University

PY0305124490 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 May 90 p 14

[Text] Brasilia—Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera yesterday signed a letter of intent by which a group of U.S. universities, headed by the University of Pittsburgh, will begin to convert $1 million of the Brazilian foreign debt into a project for agriculture and livestock research in the Amazon. Embrapa [Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise] will coordinate the project through the Environmental Monitoring Unit.

The research involves using a satellite to map an area of approximately 250 square km in the lower and central Amazonas and in lower Tocantins municipal regions to check on agricultural and livestock production in the flooded areas. A thorough study on the actions of natives in these areas will then be made. Technology will later be introduced to the practices used by the native population, which is estimated at one million producers. The objective is to expand production within that agricultural area.

Minister Cabrera pointed out that this is the first conversion of the foreign debt made by the Collor administration. The minister added that new projects will soon be added. They include the prevention of forest fires, soil conservation, and the modernization of the ministry. They estimate that more than $30 million will be invested. The Environmental Monitoring Unit of Embrapa, which will supervise the research with funds obtained from the conversion, has been developing the project for 18 months. The new resources will reduce the time of the project from four to two years and will increase the area of operation. Initially the project was to have been developed only in Para.

Embrapa was able to get authorization from the Central Bank to make the conversion possible. The process began with the signing of the letter of intent between the Agriculture Ministry and the Debt for Develop Coalition [four preceding words in English] which is an organization that negotiates the debt conversion of developing countries.

The group of universities will buy debt notes worth $1 million from the Brazilian creditors. In addition to the discount, the institutions will get 33-percent income tax deduction.

Justice Ministry To Approve Provisional Measures

PY0305144590 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] As of now, provisional measures, decrees signed by the Presidency, and draft bills that must be approved by the National Congress, must be previously assessed by the Justice Ministry and by the government leaders in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate.

This decision was formalized at a meeting held by President Fernando Collor, Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral, Leader of the Senate Jose Inacio, and Leader of the Chamber of Deputies Renan Calheiros.

According to the justice minister, this decision seeks to avoid a political decentralization that would be harmful to the government and to obviate biased comments. [passage omitted]

44-Percent Inflation Rate for April Announced

PY0305153090 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 90 p 1

[Text] According to the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics], the Consumer Price Index (IPC), which was used as the official inflation rate by the Sarney administration, reached 44.8 percent in April. IBGE President Eduardo Guimaraes said that basically the index reflects a "leftover" from the inflation rate for the first half of March [as published] and it is compatible with the price stabilization program that was announced by the current economic team.

Chile

'No Haste' in Establishing Relations With Cuba

PY0305151090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Santiago, 2 May (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas stated today that the government of President Patricio Aylwin does not yet intend to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba.

In an interview published today by EL DIARIO FINANCIERO, of Santiago, Vargas stated that, although the government's objective is to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba sometime, "there is no haste."

Vargas explained that the position of the Chilean Government has nothing to do with the Cuban political

situation or with Cuban leader Fidel Castro's reluctance to implement democratic changes in his country.

Diplomatic relations with other countries today are not ruled "by ideological reasons, and besides, we do not want to give lessons on democracy to anyone," Vargas said.

He added that the resumption of relations with Cuba will be a gradual process that will begin with the opening of consular offices.

The under secretary added that the government of President Aylwin is interested in strengthening relations between Chile and English-speaking Caribbean countries. He said that these countries did not express any interest in doing so during the previous Chilean military regime because they have a democratic tradition.

"We are interested in strengthening these relations, but unlike during the previous regime, the effort will be productive," Vargas said.

They are very influential countries within Latin America because they make up one third of the OAS.

The first objective of the Chilean Government is to establish an embassy in Jamaica and another in Trinidad-Tobago. This latter embassy will also serve concurrently for Barbados and Guyana, Vargas concluded.

Aylwin on Journalist's Arrest; Walker/Lagos Case

PY0305203790 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin has said that military prosecutor Raul Rosa must explain why he ordered the arrest and incommunicado status of LA EPOCA journalist Manuel Salazar.

Shortly before leaving his residence, on Arturo Medina Street in Santiago, Aylwin was approached by journalists on the Liliana Walker case, also known as Luisa Monica Lagos and the arrest of journalist Salazar, who is being held incommunicado in the San Miguel prison.

[Begin Aylwin recording] The truth is that I am as surprised as everyone else. It is hard to understand a decision of this nature. I think that the judges should explain the reasons for such decisions because an explanation, by no means, will affect the secrecy of the pretrial inquest. I think this decision demands an explanation from pertinent authorities. [end recording]

Reporter Manuel Salazar wrote the articles revealing the real identity of Liliana Walker, the former DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] agent who was linked to the murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington. President Aylwin was also asked about the meeting he will hold this afternoon with General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander, in La Moneda Palace at 1600. Aylwin said: I cannot say anything because I have not met with him yet.

The Foreign Ministry has reported that Monica Lagos, the woman who appears to be a former DINA agent named Liliana Walker and was involved in the Letelier case, has been summoned for interrogation, and that a note was sent to the Carabineros requesting she be taken into custody.

This information was disclosed by the Foreign Ministry's legal representative who is in charge of carrying out an investigation in the ministry regarding the making of counterfeit passports from 1974 to 1979. (Eduardo Bio Grossi) who heads the Foreign Ministry Legal Department explained that when the military court revealed that Monica Lagos and Liliana Walker are the same person, that meant that she had to use an official passport to leave the country, and that her testimony is very important for the investigation. However, he said that the interrogation is not mandatory because the ministry's legal representative is not a prosecutor.

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma revealed that the Ministry's internal investigation is moving ahead quite well, but that in the face of the information gathered it is possible that the deadline for the investigation will have to be extended. [passage omitted]

Drug Traffickers' Money Laundering Investigated

PY0305210190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0346 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Santiago, 2 May (EFE)—Horacio Toro, the director of the Civilian Investigative Police of Chile, today reported that several technical organizations are investigating the magnitude of money laundering carried out in our country by drug traffickers.

Toro announced that "within an advisable period of time we will have configurated, to some extent, the significance of this problem in Chile."

Toro added that "at this moment, as a result of the antinarcotics drive that has been centralized on Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, which are the countries where this problem has mainly been concentrated, these people have diverted their money, by indirect means, to countries where they can make sound investments."

The police director also said that the drug traffickers are looking for nations where they have guarantees that their money will yield profits for them "and that is the case of Chile."

Toro made these remarks during a news conference in which he reported on the participation of the Chilean police in a meeting, held in Mexico in late April, on the struggle against drug trafficking and abuse in Latin America.

Some 2,000 Inmates Reportedly End Hunger Strike

PY0305135890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] During a news conference, National Gendarmerie Director Cesar Pinochet disclosed that some 2,000 inmates in the Colina Prison and the former Santiago Penitentiary have ended their hunger strike.

Pinochet said that with this decision the movement that sought to force the government to pardon all inmates has begun to lose its strength.

The Gendarmerie director added that the hunger strike failed when the government announced its decision to freeze the pardon law while there were prisoners on hunger strike.

Carabineros Station Attacked by Terrorists

PY0305142090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Carabineros continue a thorough search which began last night following the attack on the Carabinero station at 5147 Licenciado de las Penas Street, Nunoa district.

According to the Carabineros, the attack was perpetrated by at least four individuals who fired a LAW rocket and machine guns at the front of the station.

Fortunately no casualties were registered and shortly after the attack a dragnet operation was launched. Although the operation continued this morning there has been no information on any arrests.

It has been disclosed that this morning the Carabineros will issue an official communique on the attack.

Industrialist's Home Bombed

PY0305191090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] The house of Fernando Aguero, president of the Industrial Development Association, was attacked with an explosive device during the night of 2 May. Aguero's house is on Ibizas Street in the Polo Club sector, in the town of Las Condes.

Just after 2300 [0200 GMT], unknown persons installed an explosive device on the railings of the garage, where two vehicles were parked. The explosion damaged one of the vehicles and the shockwave broke numerous windows. At the time of the attack, Aguero was not at home.

This action must be added to the attack that occurred some hours earlier when the Carabineros headquarters for the eastern sector of Santiago was hit by a LAW rocket.

The rocket was launched one block from the premises and hit the building between the second and third floors, causing considerable damage, but no one was injured. Carabineros have reported that a LAW rocket, manufactured in the United States, was used in this attack.

In a pamphlet, the self-called Lautaro Rebel and Popular Forces have claimed responsibility for this attack. [passage omitted]

IU President Accepts Ambassador Post in USSR

PY0405010990 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] United Left [IU] President Clodomiro Almeyda confirmed that he has accepted the post of ambassador to the Soviet Union. He released this information following a meeting with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, to whom he conveyed his decision to accept the offer.

Asked about his reasons for taking so long to consider the offer, Almeyda said that he had budgetary concerns. He added that the Chilean Embassy in the Soviet Union has not been set up yet, so he could have easily taken two or three months longer to decide. Almeyda stated that it was a great honor for him to have been appointed by President Patricio Aylwin to serve as ambassador to such an important country.

[Begin Almeyda recording] I am greatly honored by the government's decision to appoint me to such an important post. I believe that this embassy will be very significant for Chile. It is a very interesting job and I believe that I will be able to serve my fatherland very well in Moscow. [end recording]

Clodomiro Almeyda did not specify the date on which he plans to take over his job as ambassador in Moscow. He did make it clear, however, that he will do so after the Socialist Party congress which is scheduled to take place during the second half of this year.

Central Bank Reports Slump in Export Market

PY0405011890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The Chilean Central Bank has reported that the foreign trade surplus declined significantly this year. During the first quarter of 1990 it amounted to $234.2 million. The foreign trade surplus for the same period of 1989 amounted to $622.6 million.

The reasons for this reduction of the foreign trade surplus lies in reduced exports and increased imports. The Central Bank reported that Chile has sold goods abroad worth $1.955 billion and imported goods worth $1.761 billion [figures as heard].

Retired Carabineros Acquitted in Murder Case

PY0305215990 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Carabineros Colonel Luis Fontaine Manriquez, retired, has been acquitted from all charges in the

case of the murder of student Carlos Godoy Echegoyen. This information was provided in a news conference by Fontaine who also said that Trial Judge Jose Canovas Robles is an ignorant man. He said:

[Begin Fontaine recording] After waiting patiently for five years, the military court acquitted me from any responsibility in this case claiming that I was an accessory to the murder of student Carlos Godoy Echegoyen in Valparaiso. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PDC Leader Invited To Costa Rican Inauguration

PY0405032090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Andres Zaldivar was invited to the transfer of power on 8 May in Costa Rica.

Costa Rican President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon sent a letter to the Chilean leader, stating that the century-old democracy in that nation will demonstrate to the world on that day that the system of living in liberty is effective. The letter adds that this democratic celebration is a highly significant event for those of us who have struggled to strengthen peace, justice, liberty, development, and well-being.

Colombia

Government Decree Convenes Constituent Assembly

PA0405002490 Paris AFP in Spanish 2357 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Bogota, 3 May (AFP)—The government approved a decree today convening a constituent assembly to reform the Colombian Constitution.

The decree empowers the National Registrar of the civil state to count the votes that are to be cast by Colombians during the upcoming 27 May presidential elections in favor of, or against, the constituent assembly.

President Virgilio Barco will address to the country in the coming hours to explain this and other electoral measures that have been adopted.

Aid Granted to Candidates

PA0405034090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0008 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The government has just issued State Emergency Decree No. 927—signed by President Virgilio Barco and all his ministers—authorizing the National Registry Office to count votes cast during elections in favor or against calling for a national constituent assembly.

A second electoral card, on the topic of a Constituent Assembly, will be given to voters who are to be asked the following: To strengthen participative democracy, do you vote for convening a national constitutional assembly, with representation from all the social, political, and regional forces in the country, to reform the Colombian Constitution in a democratic and representative manner? The voter can answer yes or no.

In addition, the government issued an electoral guarantee statute this afternoon which establishes—for the first time in Colombia's history—economic aid for candidates to further their campaigns. The new ruling came about because of the government's inability to provide candidates with air transportation, and will enable them to rent transportation from private enterprises. Candidates have been stratified based on their party's representation in Parliament and registration at the National Electoral Council. Thus, candidates will be given the following amounts: Cesar Gaviria, Rodrigo Lloreda, Antonio Navarro, and Alvaro Gomez will receive 25 million pesos each. Regina Betancur of the Unitary Metapolitical Movement, Luis Carlos Valencia of the Socialist Workers Party, and Jose Linares of the Christian Democratic Party will be given 10 million pesos each. Also, 6 million pesos each will be given to the six remaining candidates as of today; Henry Papan Silva of the National Unitary Movement has announced that he is withdrawing from the race.

The money to be given to the candidates will come from the Presidency's budget and will follow strict government control. Government and Interior Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe stated:

[Begin Serpa recording] The candidates will have to render a report to the National Electoral Council, giving the necessary details. In addition, a copy of this report must be sent to the National Comptroller's Office and, if this is not enough, the state has said in the same decree that it will publish these reports for all the country to know how the aid was spent. [end recording]

The government also established that there is to be an increase in television time for the four parties with parliamentary representation and radio advertisements may be transmitted free over any of the stations. The National Television Council said at a later meeting that it will determine how the television time is to be increased and the amount of time to be given to each candidate. This new statute of guarantees includes a measure that operated in the country for many years, but which had been abolished—a schedule for the next elections, which will be increased by an hour, from 0800 to 1700. With these new dispositions, the government hopes the candidates will go to media sources more often and make fewer public appearances to announce their programs, thus diminishing the security risks against their lives.

Barco Discusses Two New Decrees

PA0405055490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 May 90

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco in Bogota—live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I will address two subjects of great national importance, which have deep meaning for strengthening our institutions. I am referring to the possibility of carrying out constitutional reform through the procedure of a constituent assembly and the issuance of a statute of electoral guarantees.

Today, the government issued Decrees No. 926 and No. 927. [Passage indistinct] the possibility of calling a constituent assembly because that decree establishes that you can express your opinion at the upcoming elections through the following text: To strengthen participative democracy [do you] vote in favor of calling a constitutional assembly with representation of the social, political, and regional forces of the country, democratically established to reform the Colombian political Constitution?

Therefore, based on Article 926 issued today, it is the free and autonomous decision of each voter, to express whether or not they support that the Constitution being amended by a constitutional assembly.

On election day, those who agree with this, should mark yes on the ballot. Those who disagree should mark no on the ballot.

The constitutional assembly, as stated in the aforementioned decree will be established democratically according to the people's will. This will ensure that it will have a broad democratic and participative nature. Should voters approve the aforementioned text, all Colombians can convene to chose the people who, representing the social, political, and regional force, will amend the Constitution.

The main objective is to continue to expand the possibilities for the citizens' participation to strengthen our democracy. In your hands, in other words, in the hands of the sovereign people, is the decision to create a new mechanism to reform the Constitution. A country where democracy [words indistinct], where the people's will is respected, where we trust the common citizen who knows his own needs, interests, and hopes, should allow its citizens to directly voice their opinions.

We have decided to issue the aforementioned decree understanding the national desire, and the people's outcry, to clear the path toward constitutional reform.

Toward that end, we have instituted the counting of votes in favor or against having a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. The decree authorizes the Registrar's Office to issue a card at the voting places that can be deposited by each voter at the polls on 27 May. The question that will be asked on that card has been formulated, taking into account the converging opinions of political and social forces. The government has heard the opinions that have been publicly expressed by authorized spokesmen—the students, who convened the people in the 11 March elections; former presidents; presidential candidates; trade unions; labor unions; grassroots organizations; representatives of political and social forces; the media; experts on constitutional law; and above all the people, who in various ways have expressed their desire for an urgent change to strengthen our institutions. The government has picked up that national clamor, and has issued the decree following a general consensus.

By opening the possibility for citizens to express their sovereign decision, we are creating the climate for peace and defending the right of all Colombians to forge their own destinies.

The strengthening of the institutions is absolutely necessary so that the state can effectively face those who promote violence and restore public order. In view of the intensified violence and the various forms of terrorism that threaten our democratic foundations, it is urgent to strengthen our institutions. This is understood by the entire nation, which wants to go to the polls on 27 May to support Colombian democracy with their votes. This has been understood by those who want to clear a path to constitutional reform that will make it possible for the state to recover its full effectiveness and guarantee the basis of its legitimacy.

In view of the current situation of public order, the threat against the current constitutional order, police measures—no matter how drastic—will not be enough to establish definitive normalcy or to prevent disruption of public peace. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen institutions, both in their ability to act and their legitimacy.

For these reasons, the National Government made the decision I have explained to you. Decree 927 will be sent to the honorable Supreme Court of Justice tomorrow, as stipulated in the Constitution, so that it can exercise with full automony its function of constitutional controls.

Faith in the people's criteria and profound respect for the Constitution and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Justice are the principles that have guided government programs and decisions. In this manner, we are building a more democratic, open, just, and participatory Colombia. It is a process that began more than 20 years ago. Clearing the path for constitutional reform has taken us a long time, and we have been surrounded by uncertainty. However, today we are filled with hope. This government first received a proposal for a plebiscite, then the Congress received a bill on constitutional amendments, and then the government expressed its willingness to facilitate convening a constituent assembly at the national level.

On several occasions I have reiterated the governmental decision that became a reality with the first decree issued today.

Some have wondered whether the people can meet and make decisions on fundamental aspects of the political regime. I am convinced not only that the people can

indeed do this, but that they did already. The Supreme Court of Justice has recognized this in wise pronouncements.

I will now refer briefly to the second state-of-siege decree in which an electoral guarantee statute is described. To issue these decrees, the opinions of the presidential candidates were taken into account. In addition, the guarantees that the government had already granted were complemented. The objective of this second decree is to help the candidates carry out a modern campaign by using the most advanced techniques to reduce the possibility of error. In this way, we are ensuring the additional guarantees that the government had offered. Television time was expanded so the candidates who were also parliamentarians could explain their programs. More radio and television spots were authorized and the use, free of charge, of microwave services was provided for all of the candidates. In this way, the possibility of error is reduced to the minimum. The great majority of Colombians have a radio and a television set. The decree makes it possible for the candidates to get in direct touch with millions of citizens at their own homes.

The statute of electoral guarantees, established in the second decree issued today, also makes provision for the state to finance the electoral campaigns. Specifically, the decree authorizes the state to finance campaign propaganda in newspapers and also the cost of trips. This is a great step to prevent the influence of ill-gotten money in our democracy and to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. This is also a great step forward that makes the electoral campaign more competitive and less inequitable. For this purpose, we have created a fund to distribute the money among the candidates. The money in this fund will be given directly to the candidates already registered and who request it. It is their duty to see that the money is used adequately.

Shortly after the elections, the candidates must give a detailed account to the Electoral Council on the use of the money received and return the unused portion. On 27 May, and for the first time in Colombia's history, we will use the electoral card, which will replace the traditional ballot.

The government, after consulting with the National Registrar, has decided to extend the voting time until 1700 so people can vote on Election Sunday. I am sure that this statute of guarantees will modernize our democracy and will enhance the security measures that have been adopted for the candidates over the past several months.

Through this statute more than 9 billion pesos will be contributed to the financing of the political campaigns.

Fellow countrymen, the first decree I have mentioned regarding the constituent assembly is the continuation of a historic progress to achieve the strengthening of our democracy. It is a road we have been building together. We have to work together to further our progress. That is the only way our institutions can be strengthened to face the problems of violence. That is the only way we can build a more participatory democracy, where peace, justice, and freedom can prevail. It is now up to the Colombian people. Good evening, and I will see you soon.

Car Bomb Explosion Kills 4, Injures 22 in Cali

PA0405031290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0224 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Bogota, 3 May (EFE)—The police have reported that four persons were killed and 22 injured when a car bomb exploded in the Alameda neighborhood of the city of Cali in southwestern Colombia today.

Those killed include a 3-year-old child, the authorities added.

The car bomb explosion occurred at 2015 (0115 GMT Friday) and was directed at the La Rebaja Super Drugstore.

The authorities reported that seven homes and 20 commercial establishments were also damaged by the explosion.

The governorship of Valle Department in southwestern Colombia reported that the police, Army, and rescue brigades went to the scene of the terrorist attack. No guerrilla or drug trafficking group has claimed credit for the attack.

For over a one year, the La Rebaja drugstores have been the target of attacks in Colombia within the framework of a war between the drug traffickers of Medellin and Cali. Such attacks had not occurred in the past few months. According to the Medellin Cartel, the La Rebaja drugstores are owned by their rival, the Cali Cartel.

Peru

CCFRA Chairman Denies Possibility of Coup

PA0405060290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0434 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Lima, 3 May (EFE)—Admiral Alfonso Panizo, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command (CCFRA), stated today that whoever is elected by the Peruvians will assume power in Peru. He described as "outdated" those who are considering the possibility of a coup d'etat.

There are those who do not recognize that we have a professional military force which has a mission to fulfill in this country, and which we are fulfilling, the ranking officer said in response to a question.

Admiral Panizo, who is also commander of the Peruvian Navy, made these statements one day after President Alan Garcia denied that there was any risk of a coup d'etat if independent candidate Japanese Alberto Fujimori wins the run-off election.

Fujimori, candidate of the independent Change 90 Movement, will have author Mario Vargas Llosa as an adversary in the run-off elections, after both obtained majority votes in the first elections but not the absolute majority required by the Constitution.

The Constitution is quite clear in saying that the Armed Forces are not the majority in the country, Panizo stated at a news conference, so they can hardly be empowered to decide who should or should not govern the country.

He said there is no reason to think that whoever is elected by the Peruvians cannot assume power, and added that the Armed Forces, as they did during the 8 April primary elections, can guarantee and lend all their support so that the run-off elections will run smoothly.

The ranking officer recommended that all Peruvians have full confidence in the Armed Forces and appealed to them to select their candidate on the day of the elections, initially announced for 8 June.

I ask all Peruvians not to play up to those who seek to destabilize the country through violence. I ask them to go and vote. Citizens cannot engage in the luxury of losing their right to choose those who they want to govern, Panizo stated. He reiterated that the Armed Forces have arranged for maximum security throughout the country.

President Garcia made statements to newsmen on 2 May describing as rumors and dirty war the conjectures about a coup circulating in political, diplomatic, and journalistic circles in Lima.

20 Terrorists Reported Killed; U.S. Aid Expected

PA0305235690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2104 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Lima, 3 May (EFE)—At least 20 suspected members of the Shining Path terrorist organization died yesterday during a clash with a Peruvian Army patrol after the rebels tried to blow up a bridge in Ucayali Department, the press reported today.

According to military sources cited in the local press today, the bridge is located near Aguaytia, Padre Abad Province, approximately 370 km northeast of Lima.

An officer and two soldiers were wounded during the clash that lasted two hours.

By blowing up the bridge, the Shining Path terrorists intended to isolate the Ucayali Department from Lima.

Meanwhile, yesterday in Lima Department a group of suspected members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) invaded a farm for the production of asparagus for export in the area of Sayan, looking for the owner of the farm, German citizen Peter Utrecht, but without finding him.

The Tupac Amaru guerrillas said that Utrecht exploited his 120 workers; he showed no compassion. Since they did not find him, they took away dynamite, 15 shotguns, and one radio transmitter. The rebels also painted the letters MRTA on the walls, warning the German that he must either change his attitude or leave the country.

In Cusco, 1,000 km southeast of Lima, the National Police reported the arrest of 25 suspected Shining Path guerrillas. At dawn yesterday in Lima, terrorists totally destroyed a sperm bank for the improvement of the Peruvian cattle industry at the National Agrarian Institute, causing damage estimated at $1 million.

Citing reliable sources, EL COMERCIO reported that the Peruvian Government is studying the possibility of using fighter bombers against drug trafficking and terrorism. According to the Peruvian daily, talks for that purpose are being held between the Peruvian Defense Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Peru and are already in an advanced stage.

On a date that has not yet been determined, an agreement is expected to be signed, within the framework of the accords against drug trafficking reached between the Andean Pact countries and the United States at the presidential summit held in February in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia).

The Peruvian Armed Forces have proposed to the United States the use of A-37 fighter bombers like the ones the United States used during the Vietnam War.

According to EL COMERCIO, the United States will supply $35 million for the modernization of planes used not only against drug trafficking, but also against terrorist rebels.

Government Orders 36-Percent Salary Increase

PY0305155290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 may 90

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia has announced the new salary levels for the month of May. The minimum salary has increased from 1,400,000 intis to 1,904,000 intis. The increase for nonunion workers is 35 percent, while union workers maximum adjustment will increase from 400,000 to 750,000 intis [as heard]. The adjustment for public workers will be made known in the next few days. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President, a few days ago the labor minister said that you would announce a new salary adjustment. Can you give us details?

[Garcia] To maintain the purchasing power of salaries and the productive reactivation, which showed positive gains last month for the seventh consecutive month, the government has granted salary increases effective as of May. The legal minimum salary has been increased from 1,400,000 intis to 1,904,000 intis, that is, a 36-percent raise. Salaries for nonunion workers in the private sector will receive a bonus of 35 percent on account of the cost-of-living increase. The increase for union workers whose salaries are adjusted every month or every quarter

will rise from a maximum of 400,000 intis to a maximum of 750,000 intis [as heard]. We will announce the salary adjustment for public workers in due time. This is the package of salary increases for May. [passage omitted] [end recording]

INE Reports Inflation Rate Increases in April

PY0305025090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] According to data supplied by Felix Murillo, director of the National Institute of Statistics [INE], the consumer price index reached 37.3 percent in April.

[Begin recording] [Murillo] The April inflation rate, drawn up and officially disseminated by the INE, increased 37.3 percent in April. With this figure, the cumulative inflation rate for the first four months of this year is 208 percent, and for the past 12 months—that is, between April 1989 and April 1990—the cumulative inflation rate is 1,903 percent.

[Reporter] What items have increased the most in price?

[Murillo] From this table, we can see the variation among various categories of consumer good and services. The general inflation rate is 37.3 percent. The health category rose rapidly in April, 53.8 percent. It must be noted, however, that within this group, medicines rose an average of 91 percent.

The housing, fuel, and electric power—which includes public utility rates—category rose 43.4 percent. The transportation and communications sector rose 43.3 percent.

The following items rose less than the overall inflation rate increase: Foodstuffs and beverages rose 36.9 percent. Household items—that is, those purchased in the market place—rose 38.1 percent. Clothes and shoes rose 35.6 percent. Furniture and related products rose 32.1 percent. Teaching services, which this time have been surveyed after seasonal purchasing, rose 27 percent.

From this table we can see the variations in the different products according to the administrative price system. Regulated products, including bread, pasta, sugar, and fuel, rose 16.8 percent on the average.

Products under a special system, including public utility rates, medicines, housing, and transportation, rose 45.6 percent. On the average, public utility rates rose 68 percent and medicines rose 91 percent.

Deregulated products, whose prices are set by the market—by supply and demand—rose 37.4 percent. [end recording]

Police Chief on Rumored Presence of Escobar

PY0305131390 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpts] In Lima, Technical Police Director Fernando Reyes Roca has denied that Colombian citizen Pablo Escobar, the Medellin Cartel chief, is in our country. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] General, is the Medellin Cartel chief in Peru?

[Reyes] We do not know whether he is or he is not. I could tell you that he is not because this is my personal opinion.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Reyes] No, we do not know. We do not have any clues.

[Reporter] Are you coordinating with the Colombian police?

[Reyes] We are coordinating in this respect, but we do not have any clues as to whether this drug trafficker is in Peru.

[Reporter] Where did these reports originate?

[Reyes] They are rumors, just rumors, but there is nothing positive to indicate that this criminal is in the country. [end recording]

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Gros on Policy Priorities

PY0305180090 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 26 Apr 90 p 48

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [BUSQUEDA] What were the results of the meeting with ministers of the Eastern Bloc?

[Gros] That was a highly important meeting and was the first Latin American contact at a multilateral level with Central and Eastern Europe. The meeting was instrumental in establishing direct contact with a rapidly changing situation. All these countries stated that their first priority is West Europe. The Soviet Union maintains a very respectful position toward these changes. The foreign ministers of countries from Central and East Europe have stated that just because they hold West Europe as their primary target does not mean that they have lost interest in Latin America.

[BUSQUEDA] There are observers who contend, however, that the new conditions existing in Eastern Europe will cause investments, which could have been directed to Latin America, to be diverted toward those newly opened markets. What do you think about this?

[Gros] I do not see any problem there because even though Western Europe—namely the FRG—will make extremely large investments in Eastern Europe, this will in no way mean that no investments will come to Latin America. The main stumbling blocks for investments in Latin America are political instability, administrative disarray, the foreign debt problem, imbalanced economies, and the lack of confidence. If we have healthy economies, we will never lack capital.

[BUSQUEDA] In any case, it would seem that a portion of the amount which could have been invested in Latin America will be diverted to Eastern Europe.

[Gros] There are plenty of funds for investments. There is no ceiling. Investors will be attracted by those places offering greater confidence, security, and profits. Government policies may influence one aspect of investments, but not all of them.

[BUSQUEDA] Beyond the change of name, what is the essential difference between the Group of Eight and the Group of Rio?

[Gros] The change of name is an essential factor because the group is no longer designated by a number but by a concept. This is not an institutionalized group, it is flexible and open and it can accept new members if the presidents decide to expand the group at the meeting they will hold in Caracas on 10 October.

[BUSQUEDA] Before the election, several presidential candidates—President Lacalle included—discussed the possibility of expanding the group and mentioned Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Ecuador as possible new members. Is that position still maintained?

[Gros] That is the position of the new government. The former government was against the idea of expanding the group. The Uruguayan Government position today is that there is an open group which must be expanded.

[BUSQUEDA] It has been said that the expansion of the group could, on the one hand, become an OAS without the United States; and on the other, it could make the group operationally ineffective. Do you not foresee such risks?

[Gros] No. In the first place because no one can dream of bringing all South American countries, all Central American, all Caribbean countries, and Mexico into the Group of Rio. The idea is to expand rationally, primarily including South American countries, all of them democratic, which all share essentially similar international actions and interests. Mexico is also a leading member of the group. My trip to Europe clearly convinced me that the Group of Rio is regarded as the negotiating group in Latin America.

[BUSQUEDA] What about the inefficiency which could result from the expansion of the Group of Rio?

[Gros] Operational effectiveness is paramount. The Group of Rio works very well. It works rapidly, based on agreements. Its effectiveness will not be affected by a gradual, intelligent increase in the number of its members. In Caracas it will be decided whether the number of members will be increased and, if so, at what pace. At the Mexico meeting, Brazil and Mexico were charged with studying and implementing a direct telephone system to connect all presidents and foreign ministers of the Group, so that they may conduct telephone conferences.

[BUSQUEDA] You were right when you said that not all OAS member countries will join the Group of Rio. Yet, the Group of Rio already accounts for 85 percent of the Latin American population and for a similar percentage of the foreign debt. Do you not think that based on these facts alone, the United States may regard it as an OAS without the United States?

[Gros] I do not think so. First, I do not like the argument that the Group of Rio is important because it accounts for a given percentage of the Latin American population, or of the GDP. This is an extremely materialistic, imperialistic approach to the situation. The Group of Rio would still be important even if it did not have these percentages. Furthermore, a small country like Uruguay could never agree to some countries carrying more weight than others simply because they have a larger population or have more economic power. The Group of Rio has never taken a position against the United States. It is not a group aimed at confrontation, but rather it seeks to promote agreement and consultation to achieve a harmonious international coexistence.

[BUSQUEDA] You have stated that "Uruguay has not recognized and could not have recognized the new Panamanian Government." You said that "no recognition was extended, but rather we just normalized our diplomatic relations, which had never been suspended." Did the appointment of an ambassador not entail, however, implied recognition?

[Gros] The Panamanian Government had already been recognized. We continued to maintain diplomatic relations. Uruguay never broke off relations with Panama. Thus, our relations were not discontinued. The level of our relations had already been lowered during Noriega's government as a result of the election scandal. Our relations had been at the lowest possible level—without an ambassador—at the time of the foreign invasion of Panama, an invasion which was harshly criticized by all Uruguayan political sectors. When the foreign troops retreated to the canal zone and their number was brought back to pre-invasion levels, Uruguay—although it still had reservations about what was happening in Panama—again raised the level of its relations with Panama, primarily to keep the Uruguayan Embassy open—which is a source of information for the Uruguayan Government—and to grant asylum as liberally as possible. [passage omitted]

[BUSQUEDA] You have described Argentina, Brazil, and the River Plate Basin as your first priorities in

diplomatic policy. There are, however, those who believe that Argentina and Brazil are not reliable partners due to their instability.

[Gros] Priorities are not established on the basis of stability. These countries carry their own weight as a result of their historical background, their geopolitical situation, and their economic realities. Brazil and Argentina will have a priority status in our foreign policy, as well as Paraguay and Bolivia, come what may. [passage omitted]

Lacalle Reportedly To Attend 20th OAS Assembly

PY0405035390 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] The possible presence of Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle at the OAS assembly in Asuncion has been announced.

A report by the news agency ANSA points out that the 20th regular OAS assembly will be held in the Paraguayan capital on 4 June and on this occasion the delegations would be headed by (?the presidents).

For the time being, the number of presidents which could attend the event is not known, but, in addition to Dr. Lacalle, the presidents of Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile have been mentioned.

TV Transmission Station To Be Installed

PY0305183090 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 26 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] The international satellite television transmission enterprise Sacramento will set up a station in the Nueva Palmira free zone and will try to sell its services to Argentina.

According to information obtained by EL DIA, there is a chance that the enterprise will sell its television programs to Uruguay and other countries, and for this reason they chose to establish the earth station within the free zone.

Referring to this issue, Colorado Party Deputy Jorge Conde (List 15) for Colonia, said that it "is quite significant". He said that it is a sign of international capital investors' recognition of the free zone system and of the fact that people abroad know Uruguay has a free zone.

The Colorado Party deputy estimated that the television station will be installed within the next few months, and that the enterprise will start operating sometime in 1991.

Moreover, it should be noted that the international enterprise will benefit from the free zone mechanism that is exempt from tax.

Suriname

Farmers Block Road To Protest Government Policy

FL0305183090 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Some 200 farmers in the Coronie District yesterday blocked the main road of the district for some time with barrels of coconut oil and young coconut trees. With this action they wanted to express their dissatisfaction over the fact that the government failed to honor arrangements concerning the purchase of coconut oil produced by the farmers.

According to them, the government promised a year ago to buy the 50,000 liters of coconut oil they had produced. Some six weeks ago the minister of internal affairs reaffirmed this promise, but until now nothing has been done, said the farmers of Coronie. With the short roadblock, the farmers were also protesting the neglected state of the district.

In a reaction to the roadblock by the farmers, the minister of internal affairs declared that the government will buy the coconut oil this coming Monday [7 May]. As a result of the action, the connection overland between the eastern and western parts of the country was disrupted for some time. The action by the farmers received support from bigger parts of the population of the district.